



Pooch returned to owners

Xiaobao, the 12-week-old Boston Terrier stolen in a break-and-enter, was brought home following a social-media storm PAGE 5

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Merger idea a 'fantasy,' Dexter says

Hot topic. Municipal and provincial leaders say Maritime union not the answer

Premier Darrell Dexter is calling a proposal from a group of senators to merge the Maritime provinces a "fantasy."

"That's not going to happen and no province is going to arbitrarily give up its jurisdictional integrity," said Dexter on Thursday. "What I do support is a co-operative Maritime region."

The three Tory senators pushing the concept include Sen. Stephen Greene of Nova Scotia, Sen. Mike Duffy of P.E.I. and Sen. John Wallace of New Brunswick.

They argue that by unifying a region of 1.8 million people, the provinces would reduce

interprovincial trade barriers and increase spending power and political clout.

Greene will announce the proposal at the Halifax West Conservative riding association's annual general meeting on Sunday.

Although Dexter agrees the provinces should aim to work more co-operatively, he insists they have already streamlined laws and regulations, established a regional capital fund and a regional energy strategy that includes New Brunswick and Newfoundland.

Halifax's Mayor Mike Savage lauded the senators for raising the debate but questioned whether merging the Maritimes is the answer.

"I think we should do more things together and see where it takes us," he said. "We can't strengthen one part of the Maritimes at the expense of another. I don't believe in

that."

Liberal MLA Andrew Younger is opposed to the idea. Though he says the provinces need to co-operate more, unionization isn't the solution. On Thursday, the legislature passed his motion recognizing Nova Scotia as a distinct province.

"If a bunch of Tories want to go on about unionization of the Maritime provinces then they can go for it," said Younger. "I'm going to focus on making Nova Scotia the best province it can be."

ANDREW RANKIN/METRO

Exclusively online

If there was a merger of the Maritimes, what should the province be called. Vote online at metronews.ca.



BODY OF ARTWORK

A pedestrian strolls past a new mural painted on Gottingen Street on Thursday morning. The artwork is part of a larger body of work created as part of this year's Hopscotch Festival by Iqaluit artist Jonathan Cruz of Nuschool Design Agency. JEFF HARPER/METRO

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Commission created to help grow province's economy

Lofty ideas. Five-person commission looks to bolster province's economy with consultation process



ANDREW RANKIN
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With hard work and keen insight, John Bragg built his Oxford-based frozen foods company into an international supplier over the past 44 years.

Premier Darrell Dexter said the founder of Oxford Frozen Foods is an obvious choice for the new commission charged to help grow Nova Scotia's economy.

The premier unveiled the five-member team Thursday. For the next 18 months, the group will consult with businesses across the province and then submit a report to the

Quoted

"I have no doubt that they will report back that you can't have the highest taxes in Canada and the highest power rates in Canada and job-killing labour laws and have a growing economy at the same time."

PC leader Jamie Baillie

province. The commission will have a budget of \$800,000 to work with.

Bragg said he will be guided by his experience but will remain open to ideas.

When asked why he chose to be part of the team, Bragg shot back: "I guess you could say, why wouldn't I?"

"I'm a passionate rural Nova Scotian," he said. "We'll find out what the opportunities are, where the challenges

are and how the governments can help."

Ray Ivany, the current president and vice-chancellor of Acadia University, was named commission chair.

He said building on the province's technology sector is one priority, as well as maximizing projects like the upcoming Irving Shipbuilding megaproject and the planned Projex expansion. But, he said, the big picture is about enhancing the province's overall potential.

Dexter said he's hoping the end result will be a more cohesive economy.

"I want to break down the outdated idea that regions of the province are competing against each other," said Dexter.

"How can a business owner in Dartmouth learn from the success of a business owner in Oxford?"

Other members of the commission include Dan Christmas, Irene d'Entremont and Susanna Fuller.



Acadia University president Ray Ivany, right, speaks on Thursday as Premier Darrell Dexter looks on at a news conference announcing a new Premier's Advisory Council on the Economy. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Riding map. Dexter will allow fisheries minister to vote against riding changes

A Nova Scotia cabinet minister will be allowed to vote against legislation that would redraw the province's electoral map, Premier Darrell Dexter said Thursday.

Dexter said Fisheries Minister Sterling Belliveau can vote his conscience on changes that will cut his Shelburne riding in half so that his constituents know their voice was heard.

"I know that's an unusual thing for executive council members to be allowed to do, but I think in the circumstances it's appropriate," he said.

Dexter said his government would accept the redrawing of



Fisheries Minister Sterling Belliveau
METRO

the boundaries that were proposed in a final report by the Nova Scotia Electoral Bound-

aries Commission.

The report merges four ridings intended to represent the province's black and Acadian populations with other ridings.

Belliveau spoke out against the changes last month, saying his constituents weren't consulted by the commission. That prompted the government's unprecedented move of sending the law amendments committee to Shelburne for two days of public hearings.

During hearings held earlier this month, a majority of the presenters from the riding also opposed the changes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Criminal justice

Full parole for one of three convicted in 1992 murders at Cape Breton McDonald's

One of three convicted killers involved in the slayings of three people at a McDonald's restaurant in Cape Breton 20 years ago has been granted full parole.

The National Parole Board has decided Darren Richard Muise, who is now on day parole, should be released, subject to certain conditions.

Muise must avoid contact with surviving victims or their families, refrain from going to Sydney, N.S., avoid consuming illicit drugs or meeting with people with a criminal background.

Muise, now 39, was 18 when he and two other young men robbed a McDonald's in Sydney River in May 1992.

He pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in the death of Neil Burroughs, a married father and maintenance worker at the restaurant.

He was sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole for 20 years. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Delisle spy case. Crown agrees to release redacted versions of warrants

The federal Crown has consented to unsealing redacted versions of three search warrants used to obtain evidence against a navy officer who pleaded guilty last month to passing military secrets to Russia.

A provincial court judge in Halifax ruled Thursday that the documents should be released, but they weren't immediately made available to all news outlets.

Sub-Lt. Jeffrey Paul Delisle pleaded guilty in October to passing information to a foreign entity and breach of trust for selling classified information. He will be sentenced Jan. 10.



Sub-Lt. Jeffrey Paul Delisle
THE CANADIAN PRESS

When he was arrested in January of this year, Delisle was working as a threat-assessment analyst at a highly secretive military facility in Halifax known as Trinity.

The court documents to be released include the information used by the police to obtain the warrants, the warrants themselves and documents that list the evidence obtained.

Crown attorney Monica McQueen said the "relatively small" redacted portions include details about investigative techniques and matters pertaining to national security.

Delisle's guilty pleas on Oct. 10 came five years after he walked into the Russian embassy in Ottawa and offered military secrets for money.

During a bail hearing in March, Crown attorney Lyne Decarie said Delisle gained access to secure systems that held information about the military, organized crime, politicians and the Chief of Defence Staff.

Decarie said Delisle, a father who is divorced from his first wife, received \$5,000 for the first couple of transfers and then \$3,000 every month.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stolen puppy returned to owners safe and sound



This Boston Terrier puppy was stolen from a Timberlea woman's home Wednesday but was returned after a social media plea. POLICE HANDOUT

Happy ending.

12-week-old 'little treasure' returned after social-media storm



RUTH DAVENPORT
ruth.davenport@metronews.ca

The puppy that was stolen during a break-and-enter in Timberlea this week has been returned, unharmed, to her relieved owner.

"Aaaaaaahhhh! Is that technically a word?" said an ecstatic Ashley Mills Thursday evening.

Mills' 12-week-old Boston terrier, Xiaobao, was taken during a break-and-enter sometime Wednesday.

Mills said she came home around 4 p.m. to find the house in disarray — and ominously quiet.

"I realized as soon as I walked in the door, she wasn't there waiting for me, doing her happy dance," she said. "I started calling and calling and

running around the house."

RCMP issued a public plea for help Thursday afternoon, and the story went viral with hundreds of shares and retweets on Facebook and Twitter.

The social-media blitz worked: Mills said she received a call from police Thursday evening saying they had her dog.

"They said, 'Someone anonymously dropped her off, so we're coming to give her back to you,'" said Mills. "I'm not sure if they called to meet them somewhere, or if they dropped her off at the station, but we don't really care."

Mills said she and her husband are grateful to everyone who took up the cause and spread the story of Xiaobao — which means "little treasure."

"I'm sure that scared someone into being like, 'Oh! I found your dog!'" she laughed.

Mills said her home now has a new security system that will provide some peace of mind when she's out of the house in the future.

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Aggravated assault charge. Young man turns himself in to police

A 19-year-old man has been charged with aggravated assault in relation to a stabbing in Dartmouth last weekend.

Police say Brandon Harvey Hannan of Dartmouth turned himself in to police on Wednesday, and after being interviewed by investigators, was charged.

At 10:43 p.m. last Saturday, police were called to the front of Bob's Taxi at 269 Wyse Rd. for a report of a stabbing.

The victim, an 18-year-old male, was stabbed several times in the torso during a confrontation with two other men.

Ongoing case

- **One suspect still at large.** Police say they are seeking a second individual involved in the incident.

The victim went inside Bob's Taxi after the stabbing and police were called.

He was taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries and has since been released.

PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO NEWS

Children's Wish fraud

People collecting donations illegally

The Children's Wish Foundation has asked Halifax police to look into reports of people collecting donations in restaurants and stores around HRM in the foundation's name. In a release, Children's Wish Foundation officials say the organization never solicits

funds in public places and hasn't given permission to anyone to collect donations on its behalf in this manner. The release states that anyone interested in supporting Children's Wish is asked to make a donation online or by mail. Anyone with information about fraudulent fundraising is asked to contact the Children's Wish Nova Scotia Chapter immediately at 902-492-1984. RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO

'Right idea, wrong place' residents say about proposal



Residents of the Williams Lake Road and Clovis Road area say this proposed building is too tall to be a good fit for the neighbourhood. CONTRIBUTED

New development. WM Fares is seeking an agreement to construct a 62-unit building on Herring Cove Road



RUTH DAVENPORT

ruth.davenport@metronews.ca

A developer's proposal for an apartment building on Herring Cove Road got a fairly uniform reception at a public information meeting: Right idea, wrong place.

Developer WM Fares is seeking a development agreement to allow construction of a 62-unit building ranging from four to seven storeys high at 286, 290 and 292 Herring Cove Road. The properties are currently zoned for low-density residential buildings only.

It's the second proposal from the Fares group for the area following a public consultation in February 2011 during which residents suggested town or rowhouses for the

property.

"The client wanted a different approach," Fares engineer Cesar Saleh told a few dozen residents at the Captain William Spry Community Centre Thursday night.

"He wants a game-changer building ... he believes this will be a building that will change the face of Herring Cove Road."

Saleh emphasized the design of the project and plans to include a commercial daycare, suggesting it's the kind of project that could spur a revitalization of the area.

However, residents of Williams Lake and Clovis Roads, whose properties will back onto the new development, weren't buying it.

Locals started expressing their frustration within the first 30 seconds and didn't let up for a solid two hours, criticizing the size of the building and its proximity to their homes.

With only a few exceptions, the comments were negative, and centred around a common theme. "We always thought of Spryfield as a village and that building doesn't really fit a village," said resident Heather Whitehead.

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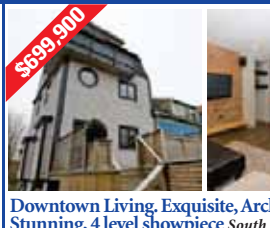
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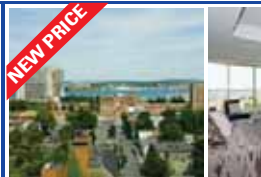
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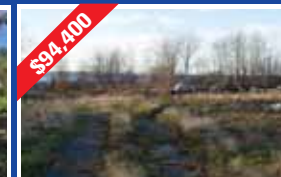
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Rebecca Hiltz LeBlanc and her husband, Mitch LeBlanc, celebrate their win on the Honourable Justice Jamie W.S. Saunders Award (also known as the Golden Mo) at the legal community's wrap-up gathering at the Halifax Law Courts on Thursday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Off with the 'staches. Barber offers tips for a clean upper lip

With Movember ending Friday, Leo Barthelotte at the King's Krown barbershop in south-end Halifax has advice for those men wanting a return to smooth upper lips.

"They can cut it off just with a pair of scissors, and a lot of people get those little clippers too," said Barthelotte.

"But even if you put on a lot of shaving foam, you'll take it off with a razor, that's for sure."

Barthelotte said he also had a lot of men come in looking for moustache wax, to get that perfect cartoon-villain twirl.

"It's a fun thing," he said. Mitch LeBlanc said he's indifferent to his own moustache, but his wife said she is definitely not a fan.

"It's coming off," Rebecca Hiltz LeBlanc laughed. "I am looking forward to watching it go down the drain."

Deputy Chief Chris McNeil of Halifax Regional Police said he is not usually the type to have a moustache, and it was only the strength of the cause that made him put down his razor for a month.

"But I'm looking forward to getting rid of it," he said.

HALEY RYAN/METRO

No mo' mo's anymore

Movember. Prostate cancer's campaign for 2012 comes to a close



HALEY RYAN
haley.ryan@metronews.ca

Rebecca Hiltz LeBlanc plans on displaying her moustache in her law office.

"Because I don't know where I'd put it at home," Hiltz LeBlanc laughed after

receiving a large, gold moustache trophy with her husband, Mitch LeBlanc, on Thursday.

The couple won the Honourable Justice Jamie W.S. Saunders Award at the Movember wrap-up event for Halifax police and those in the local justice system.

Mitch LeBlanc just finished his last round of treatment for prostate cancer, and said he was happy to grow a moustache this year because last November he

Quoted

"We're definitely not losing steam."

Mike Milloy, on Movember's popularity in HRM

was recovering from surgery. "It's really humbling," he said about winning the Golden Mo with his wife, who helped organize the Movember moustache-growing contest amongst Halifax lawyers, judges and police.

"We went through every-

thing together. She was there every step of the way."

Mike Milloy, chair of the Halifax Movember chapter, said Nova Scotia has raised more than \$600,000 for prostate-cancer research this year, while Canada has \$29 million so far.

More donations are expected over the next couple weeks, Milloy said, with 40 per cent of funds going to the Canadian Male Health Network for the first time, due to a new focus on men's mental health.

"One of the main ideas behind Movember is ... to break through that stereotypical macho attitude that stops guys from actually talking about what's wrong with their bodies," Milloy said.

Online

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Lack of below-zero weather holding up Oval action

Emera Oval. Tens of thousands have used outdoor skating rink



RUTH DAVENPORT
ruth.davenport@metronews.ca

The weather may be cold enough to merit scarves, boots and heavy coats — but it's not cold enough to get ice on the Emera Oval.

"We need consistently low temperatures below zero in order to make the ice," said oval manager John Henry on Thursday.

"Our system is able to maintain the ice above zero, but in order to make it, it has to be below zero."

Henry said the long-range forecast isn't definitive enough to set an opening date yet — but he's optimistic the oval will be ready for skating no later than Dec. 23, when it opened for business last year.



The sun sets as skaters use the Oval during its first year of operation. METRO FILE

He said oval users will notice some major changes, thanks to a summer's worth of "hardscaping."

"That included putting sidewalks and brick pavers and planters and new light-

ing is going to be added," said Henry. "Basically anywhere that you'd remember there was just gravel with mats on top of that, that's going to be a beautiful, seamless, hardscaped surface."

Assuming the weather cooperates, Henry said there will be several events at the oval throughout the winter months, starting with a New Year's Eve celebration.

"We're looking forward

to a great evening of family celebration to ring in the new year," he said.

"Definitely, do some snow dances and we'll see if we can bring some cold weather this way."

Charter

Province moves to clear way for permanent loos

The provincial government will amend HRM's charter in order to allow the construction of permanent public washrooms near the oval on the North Common.

Municipal Relations Minister John MacDonell announced the amendments in a release on Thursday.

"Nova Scotians want strong, vibrant communities that offer the services and amenities that they need," stated MacDonell in the release.

The building housing the washrooms will also be used to store oval equipment. Public consultation will be held to determine the design.

The legislative amendments are among more than 30 that HRM has asked the province for since 2006. **RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO**

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INSPIRATION FOR WOMEN

isis | Immigrant Settlement & Integration Services

Lama Issa knows first-hand the challenges faced by immigrant women trying to start a business in Canada. She drew on that experience to address the graduating class of the Immigrant Settlement and Integration Services (ISIS) pilot Immigrant Women Entrepreneurial Program.

Issa, who hails from the republic of Georgia, told the class about the challenges she faced in opening Chocolates by Design, her fine chocolate importing business, six years ago.

"ISIS was a real inspiration for me," she says. "I probably wouldn't have been able to start my business without their help."

Immigrant women face a unique set of challenges when it comes to starting and running a business in Canada. That's why the ISIS Immigrant Women Entrepreneurial Program is so important. It provides participants with hands-on experience in starting and running a business, using a model similar to Junior Achievement, but modified for adults. The participants obtain business training, input from experts and ongoing one-on-one counselling as part of the program.

The eight participants who took part in



Alicia Browne (ISIS business councillor), from left, Joy Marylin Balan, Junhee Choi, Mary Rose Macatangay, Darin Ruangruchira, Meghna Kararia, Elham Jalali, Liat Shomrat, Yulia Sultan-Shah, and Susan Eldridge (course facilitator).

TOM MASON PHOTO



Lama Issa

the pilot session hail from six different countries and speak as many native languages, but they share one thing in common: A drive to succeed and grow new businesses in their adopted home. In addition to classroom training, they received direct access to business service providers — lawyers, accountants, bankers and other experts who offered their experience during the classes.

ISIS is a leading community organization that provides services and creates opportunities to enable immigrants to participate fully in Canadian life. The Immigrant Women Entrepreneurial Program is supported in part by the Atlantic

Canada Opportunities Agency through the Atlantic Population Table.

Issa is looking forward to celebrating the one-year anniversary of Chocolates by Design at her coffee shop at 1360 Lower Water St., from Nov. 30 to Dec. 2, with promotions, free coffee and gift card giveaways.

In the meantime, she says she was happy to take time from her busy schedule to address the graduating ISIS students.

"It was important for me to talk to them because I was a student once, and I was always inspired by entrepreneurs when they talked about their own businesses. It was important for me to give back, to encourage them to go forward."

— Tom Mason

STORIES FROM WEP PARTICIPANTS

The eight participants of the Immigrant Women Entrepreneurial Program (WEP) came from a variety of countries and backgrounds.

MEGHNA KARARIA — INDIA

"I didn't want to end up doing a 9 to 5 job," Kararia says. She hopes to use her MBA from Saint Mary's University along with the information from the Immigrant Women Entrepreneurial Program to start her own leather import business in Halifax. "It was exciting to meet these women from around the globe, to share ideas and attend events. I plan to stay in contact with my new friends."

JUNHEE CHOI — SOUTH KOREA

"I used to have a bad impression of business," Choi says. "This course showed me that I love to network, and that business can be a very spiritual tool. I will use everything I learned." She plans to start a natural nutrition business.

MARY ROSE MACATANGAY — THE PHILIPPINES

Macatangay found out she needed to create a business plan when she went to the

bank to finance her dream of opening an authentic Filipino restaurant in Halifax. She turned to ISIS for help. "The course gave me more things that I didn't expect," she says. "I learned that I didn't have to do everything myself. I could hire experts to help."

JOY MARYLIN BALAN — INDIA

Balan needed help with registering, licensing and marketing her daycare business in Clayton Park when she approached ISIS for advice. "I came with no knowledge about business and today I can say that I have access to all the information required to start and market my business."

LIAT SHOMRAT — ISRAEL

Shomrat is a cake decorator and graphic designer who moved to Canada from Israel just five months ago. She wants to open her own pastry shop. "We received very good tools and information. I really liked the opportunity to make new friends and be inspired from their ideas."

DARIN RUANGRUCHIRA — THAILAND

Ruangruchira admits that she had no

knowledge of business when she decided to enrol in the Immigrant Women Entrepreneurial Program. Now she is working on a business plan, developing her idea for an import/export e-commerce business. "As immigrants, we're often afraid of going out and talking to experts. The great thing about this course is that the experts came to us to share their knowledge."

YULIA SULTAN-SHAH — ISRAEL

Sultan-Shah loves nothing better than to entertain people. As a party organizer and a clown, she stages birthday parties and other events, often for clients who speak Hebrew or Russian. "Business in Canada was something new for me. I didn't know where to start. This program gave me lots of information and encouragement."

ELHAM JALALI — IRAN

Jalali, a jewelry designer, came to ISIS at the encouragement of her husband. "He started coming here and he told me I should go, too," she says. "I learned so much about things like banking, bookkeeping, lawyers. Business is very different here from how I worked in Iran."

INFORMATION SESSIONS AND WORKSHOPS

BUSINESS SHOWCASE AND MARKET — DEC. 5

Immigrant business owners will showcase and market their products in conjunction with the ISIS open house at 6960 Mumford Rd. Vendors will be set up in the mezzanine area outside of ISIS from 2:30-7 p.m. The Immigrant Women's Entrepreneurial Program will be selling its class project — reusable grocery bags — and all proceeds raised will go to support the refugee emergency fund.

STEP UP FOR SUCCESS

A multi-day program that focuses on increasing productivity, innovation, competitiveness, and market growth for your business run by the Centre for Entrepreneurship Education and Development (CEED). Dec 6., from 6:30-8 p.m.

BUSINESS PLAN WRITING WORKSHOP

A multi-session series covering the essentials of business plan development. Learn how to write your plan and communicate your business idea. Program information session, Jan. 8 at 7 p.m.

BUSINESS SKILLS DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

A 12-week workshop series providing immigrants with the information and skills they need to start a business in Nova Scotia. Jan 14-18, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

HOW TO GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Want to take your business to the next level? Find out about best practices and resources available. Tuesdays (Feb. 26 to March 26) from 6-9 p.m.

To register for workshops or more information, call 902-423-3607, email business@isisns.ca, or visit isisns.ca/business.



JUPITERIMAGES/CREATAS/THINKSTOCK



Syrians stand near a burning truck that was destroyed by cars bombs in Damascus on Wednesday. Two U.S.-based Internet-monitoring companies say Syria has shut off online access nationwide. Activists in Syria reached Thursday by satellite telephone confirmed the unprecedented blackout. SANA NEWS AGENCY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Internet shut down in Syria as airport battle rages on

Blackout. Cellphone service also cut in attempt to block communications between rebel forces

The Syrian government shut down the Internet across the country and cut cellphone services in select areas Thursday as rebels and government troops waged fierce battles near the capital's airport, forcing international airlines to suspend flights, activists said.

The Internet blackout, confirmed by two U.S.-based companies that monitor online connectivity, is unprecedented in Syria's 20-month-old uprising against President Bashar Assad. Regime forces have suffered a string of tactical defeats in recent weeks —

losing air bases and other strategic facilities — and the blackout may be an attempt by the government to dull any further rebel offensives by hampering communications.

Authorities often cut phone lines and Internet access in areas where regime forces are conducting major military operations to disrupt rebel communications. Activists in Syria reached Thursday by satellite telephone confirmed the blackout.

Renesys, a U.S.-based network security firm that studies Internet disruptions, said in a statement that Syria effectively disappeared from the Internet at 12:26 p.m. local time.

"In the global routing table, all 84 of Syria's IP address blocks have become unreachable, effectively removing the country from the Internet," Renesys said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A council divided

Envoy to Syria says security council key to peace

Divisions in the Security Council are blocking progress toward ending the violence in Syria, and any cease-fire will require an international peacekeeping force, the United Nations envoy for the country said Thursday.

Lakhdar Brahimi said he has the elements for a possible peace plan, but they "cannot be put together until the (Security Council) has come together and is ready to adopt a resolution that will be the basis for a political process."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Soldier in WikiLeaks case felt caged

A U.S. soldier charged in the biggest security breach in the country's history testified Thursday that he felt like a doomed, caged animal after he was arrested in Iraq for allegedly sending classified information to the secret-spilling website WikiLeaks.

Bradley Manning testified on the third day of a pretrial hearing. His lawyers are seeking dismissal of all charges, contending his pretrial confinement in a Marine Corps brig in the U.S. was needlessly harsh.

Before he was sent to the

brig in July 2010, Manning spent time in a cell in a segregation tent at Camp Arifjan, an army installation in Kuwait.

"I remember thinking I'm going to die. I'm stuck inside this cage," a nervous Manning said under questioning by defence at-

torney David Coombs. "I just thought I was going to die in that cage. And that's how I saw it — an animal cage."

The 24-year-old intelligence analyst is trying to avoid trial.

He argues he was punished enough when he

was locked up alone in a small cell for nearly nine months in solitary confinement and had to sleep naked for several nights.

The military contends the treatment at the time was proper.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Bradley Manning's lawyers are arguing that his confinement was needlessly harsh. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Caught at border

Cult kids return home to Canada

Ten children, aged two through seven, who were allegedly living in Arizona with followers of a self-styled guru have been returned to Quebec and placed in youth protection. Two more returned to B.C. and another two are still missing.

Marcel Pontbriand of Beloeil, Que., led the cult, which allegedly separated kids from their parents.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Biohazard

Man jailed for syringe assaults

A Quebec man who hid dirty syringes in clothing at a shopping mall has been sentenced to four years in jail.

Claude Letourneau had pleaded guilty to 32 counts of theft, assault with a weapon causing harm and assault with a weapon.

Several shoppers were pricked by the needles and had to undergo drug treatment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Salvation Army

Second charged in \$2M toy theft

A second person has been charged in connection with the theft of 100,000 toys and other items from a Salvation Army warehouse in Toronto, police said Thursday.

Umaish Ramratan, 61, of Ajax, faces 40 charges, including several counts of theft and possession of stolen property, and is to appear in court on Jan. 4.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian carnage

War of 1812 letters up for sale

Draft letters detailing the War of 1812 are going up for auction in Toronto next month.

Three drafts of letters written in 1814 by Alexander Dobbs, commander of a British ship squadron, recount the Battle of Lundy's Lane, the explosion of H.M.S. Magnet and the Siege of Fort Erie. The letters have pre-sale estimates of \$2,000 to \$3,000.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec holds blood for fear of contamination

Concern at provincial blood supply agency. Tiny cracks in the packaging may have been the result of a manufacturing defect

Quebec's health minister offered assurances to patients on Thursday after the agency that oversees blood supplies in the province temporarily suspended use of some of its stock.

The problem has led to the postponement of some operations throughout the province.

"There is no contamination of the blood in Quebec," Health Minister Rejean Hebert told reporters in Quebec City.

"There is a problem with some batches of blood that could be contaminated, and we have withdrawn those batches of blood to be sure there's no problem."

Hebert insisted there is no risk to patients, adding that



A bag of blood is shown at a Montreal clinic on Thursday. Exposure to air could make a portion of the supply unusable. RYAN REMIOWZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

the agency, Hema-Quebec, has the reserves necessary to fulfil the needs of hospitals.

A Montreal health services spokeswoman said some elective surgeries at five area hos-

pitals were delayed, including heart operations at three major Montreal hospitals.

A spokesman for Hema-Quebec said there was a problem with the equipment used

Suspended

70%

The amount of the agency's blood stock that might be held for examination due to fears of bacterial contaminants

to keep blood. Tiny cracks were found in some packaging used to store blood stock at a Montreal holding facility.

Laurent-Paul Menard said the blood, some of which had already been distributed to hospitals, risked being exposed to air, which creates favourable conditions for bacteria.

Menard said about 70 per cent of the agency's stock might be held for examination.

Hema-Quebec suggested the leaks in the bags appeared to have been a manufacturing defect.

On the web

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Northern ice sheets playing larger role in rising sea level

Climate change.

Melting ice now responsible for 40 per cent of overall sea-level rise, up from 20 per cent in the '90s

A study believed to be the most comprehensive ever done of the planet's ice sheets shows that, overall, they are melting faster and faster.

And as world leaders meet in Doha, Qatar, to discuss responses to climate change, the paper published Thursday in the journal *Science* shows the loss of ice from Greenland and the Antarctic is making an ever-greater contribution to rising sea levels.

"It's an observation with sufficient certainty to tell people the changes in the polar ice sheets are very much in line with what we expect those changes in climate to produce," said co-author Andrew Shepherd of the

University of Leeds.

Shepherd was one of an international team of 47 scientists who combined a wide array of data from 10 satellite missions and other sources to provide the clearest picture yet of what has been happening with the massive sheets of ancient ice that help anchor Earth's climate at both ends.

Overall, the sheets have lost about 4,250 gigatonnes of ice since 1992, enough to raise the average sea level around the globe by 11 millimetres.

That may not sound like much, but Erik Ivins of California's Jet Propulsion Laboratory says it's enough to matter.

"When you have 11 millimetres of increased sea level, if you compute the amount of mass that's capable of coming on shore during storm surge, it's a lot of mass," he said. "Small changes in sea levels in certain places mean very big changes in the kind of protection of infrastructure you need to have in place."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Surface melt water rushes along the surface of the Greenland Ice Sheet through a supra-glacial stream channel in this July photo. Polar ice sheets are now melting three times faster than in the 1990s, but so far that's added slightly more than a centimetre to already rising global sea levels, a new comprehensive scientific study says. IAN JOUGHIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Making progress

Obama admin. says AIDS-free generation within reach

The Obama administration is releasing an ambitious road map to slash the global spread of AIDS by getting more people treated sooner and accelerating the use of other proven tools.

Thursday's report outlines how progress could continue if U.S. spending remains consistent — something far from certain as Congress and President Barack Obama struggle to avert looming budget cuts at year's end.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says the plan shows her call for an AIDS-free generation is a goal within reach.

Some 34 million people worldwide are living with HIV. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Obama THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Extended hours for Cobequid Community Health Centre Emergency Department starting December 1, 2012

Cobequid Community Health Centre's Emergency Department will extend its hours starting December 1, 2012.

The new hours for the Cobequid Emergency Department will be 7 a.m. to midnight seven days a week. This is to serve the communities of Bedford, Fall River, Sackville and surrounding areas.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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N.Y. cop praised as an officer and a gentleman

Kindness goes viral.

Police officer buys boots for barefoot homeless man on frigid night of Nov. 14

A tourist's snapshot of a New York City police officer giving new boots to a barefoot homeless man in Times Square has created an online sensation.

Jennifer Foster, of Arizona, was visiting New York with her boyfriend on Nov. 14, when she came across the shoeless man asking for change in Times Square. As she was about to approach him, she said the officer — identified as Larry DePrimo — came up to the man with a pair of all-weather boots and thermal socks on the frigid night. She recorded his generosity on her cellphone.

DePrimo, speaking to reporters on Thursday, remembered



This screenshot taken from Facebook shows policeman Larry DePrimo giving boots to a homeless man. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

the night clearly, that even with two pairs of socks on, his feet were freezing.

The homeless man "didn't even have a pair of socks on and I could only imagine how

cold that pavement was," the 25-year-old said.

Foster's photo was posted Tuesday night to the NYPD's official Facebook page and became an instant hit. More than 420,000 users "liked" it as of Thursday evening, and more than 140,000 shared it.

Thousands of people commented, including one person who praised him as "An officer AND a Gentleman."

The photo shows the officer kneeling beside the man with the boots at his feet. A shoe store is seen in the background.

"I have these size 12 boots for you, they are all-weather. Let's put them on and take care of you," Foster quoted DePrimo as saying to the man.

She wrote: "The officer squatted down on the ground and proceeded to put socks and the new boots on this man. The officer expected NOTHING in return and did not know I was watching." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Activists want action on tuna decline

Environmental activists depict a school of tuna during a rally outside the Japanese Embassy in suburban Pasay, south of Manila in the Philippines, Thursday. In their statement, the group demanded countries joining the ninth regular session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission agree on conservation and management measures to address the alleged fast-declining supply of Pacific tuna. AARON FAVILA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Runaway equines captured

New York City can be like a zoo sometimes, but a zebra running wild through the streets is not something you ordinarily see.

The Staten Island Advance reports a zebra and a mini-

ature horse were spotted trotting through a shopping centre parking lot Wednesday morning in Staten Island.

Metropolitan Drape & Blind owner Zachary Osher saw the runaway equines and shared

his video with the newspaper. He says the animals narrowly escaped being hit by a car.

Police say the animals were corralled and returned to a petting zoo.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Palestinians celebrate the UN vote in the West Bank city of Ramallah on Thursday. MAJDI MOHAMMED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Palestinians win UN statehood

Landslide. Only Canada, U.S., Israel, the Czech Republic, Panama and four tiny island nations opposed

The United Nations voted overwhelmingly Thursday to recognize a Palestinian state, a long-sought victory for the Palestinians and a diplomatic defeat for the United States.

The resolution upgrading the Palestinians' status to a non-member observer state at the UN was approved by a vote of 138-9, with 41 abstentions.

A Palestinian flag was quickly unfurled on the floor of the General Assembly, behind the Palestinian delegation. In the West Bank city of Ramallah, hundreds crowded into the main square, waved flags and chanted "God is great."

Real independence, however, remains elusive until the Palestinians negotiate a peace deal with the Israelis, who warned that the UN action will

only delay a lasting solution. Israel still controls the West Bank, east Jerusalem and access to Gaza and it accused the Palestinians of bypassing negotiations with the campaign.

The Palestinians still face enormous limitations. They don't control their borders, airspace or trade, they have competing governments in Gaza and the West Bank and they have no unified army or police.

The U.S. immediately criticized the vote. "Today's unfortunate and counterproductive resolution places further obstacles in the path to peace," Ambassador Susan Rice said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the UN move violated past agreements and that Israel would act accordingly.

The Palestinians can now access UN agencies and international bodies, most significantly the International Criminal Court, which could become a springboard for going after Israel for alleged war crimes or its settlements on war-won land. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Domestic take

Canada considers retaliation

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird denounced the UN General Assembly Thursday for its "utterly regrettable decision" to allow the vote.

Baird also suggested Canada will take retaliatory measures against the Palestinians for forcing the issue onto the world stage. He didn't say what, but the obvious option would be suspending aid.

Baird said Canada was voting against the initiative because "we are firmly convinced (it) will undermine the objective of reaching a comprehensive, lasting and just settlement."

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On the up

Top 5 automakers on track to bring in record profit this year: Scotiabank

The world's five-largest automakers are on track to post the industry's most profitable year on record — continuing an upward trend that is likely to go on for some time, according to a report from Scotiabank.

Based on profits recorded over the first nine months of the year, Scotiabank estimates the global auto giants are headed for a combined \$61.4 billion US in profit this year.

That's a huge rebound from the industry downturn sparked four years ago by a credit crisis in the U.S. banking sector.

The report says investors and corporate officials are worried about the industry's deteriorating prospects in Western Europe, but that's offset by the growing importance of developing markets.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Turkish delight. Air Canada to launch direct flights to Istanbul

Air Canada is introducing direct service next summer to Istanbul, Turkey and will use two new Boeing 777 aircraft to expand its reach into the lucrative Asia-Pacific market.

Year-round service to Istanbul three times a week from Toronto will begin June 4 and serve as a gateway to Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa with alliance partner Turkish Airlines.

"Istanbul and Turkey is growing incredibly fast. The traffic that we have been carrying to date via our European partners we feel warrants now a non-stop service," chief commercial officer Ben Smith said in an interview.

Air Canada will also add a fifth destination in Asia from Toronto by launching non-stop, three-times-a-week service to Seoul. The flights will complement existing service from Vancouver and provide daily departures from Canada to the South Korean capital.

Three more weekly departures between Toronto and Beijing will begin June 1, bringing the total to 10 a week. Vancouver will offer 11



This could be you: A couple looks over the Bosphorus in Istanbul.

DAN KITWOOD/GETTY IMAGES

weekly departures with the addition of four additional flights, including a new late night flight. Service from Calgary to Tokyo Narita will be upgraded to daily flights with the addition of two flights a week starting May 1.

The airline is focused on enhancing its Toronto hub for use by business travellers originating from the eastern United States and Canada

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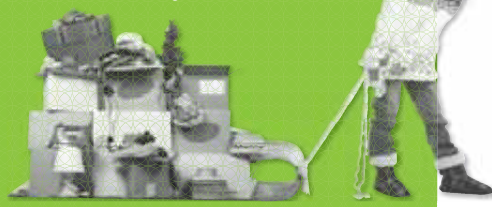
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What's their beef? Low wages, no union

Protesters, many of them employees at Wendy's, demonstrate outside of one of the restaurants to demand higher pay and the right to form a union on Thursday in New York City. The campaign, called Fast Food Forward, organized protests at other New York fast-food establishments. The group seeks to double hourly pay to \$15 US an hour. SPENCER PLATT/GETTY IMAGES

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XL Foods


Same rules apply to meat for export, domestic markets: Inspection agency


The Canadian Food Inspection Agency says the same safety standards apply to meat for domestic consumption and for overseas exports, and reports to the contrary are "categorically false." The agency is reacting to a media report that inspectors at the XL Foods processing plant in Brooks, Alta., were told to ignore contamination on cattle carcasses unless they were destined for Japan.


THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

 **DOLLAR**
100.73¢ (-0.09¢)

 **TSX**
12,202.85 (+62.52)

 **OIL**
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 **GOLD**
\$1,729.50 US (+\$10.70)

Natural gas: \$3.65 US (-15¢)
Dow Jones: 13,021.82 (+36.71)

Hostess Brands. Court approves Twinkie maker's bankruptcy — including executive bonuses

Hostess Brands Inc. got final approval for its wind-down plans in bankruptcy court Thursday, setting the stage for its iconic snack cakes to find a second life with new owners — even as 18,000 jobs will be wiped out.

The company said in court that it's in talks with 110 potential buyers for its brands, which include CupCakes, Ding Dongs and Ho Hos. The suitors include at least five national retailers such as supermarkets, a financial adviser for Hostess said.

The process has been "so fast and furious" Hostess wasn't able to make its planned calls to potential buyers, said Joshua Scherer of Perella Weinberg

Partners. "Not only are these buyers serious, but they are expecting to spend substantial sums," he said, noting that six of them had hired investment banks to help in the process.

The update on the sale process came as Hostess also received approval to give its top executives bonuses totalling up to \$1.8 million US for meeting certain budget goals to bring down costs during the liquidation. The company says the incentive pay is needed to retain the 19 corporate officers and "high-level managers" during the wind down process, which could take about a year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Hostess Brands' Wonder Bread JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES



In a 2,000-page report on the ethics of the British media released Thursday, Lord Justice Brian Leveson said the press should be regulated by a new body with much stronger powers than the current Press Complaints Commission. GETTY IMAGES FILE

New regulator needed to corral press: U.K. judge

Media ethics inquiry. PM objects to report's key recommendation, citing free-speech infringement concerns

Britain's unruly newspapers should be regulated by an independent body dominated by non-journalists with the power to levy steep fines for ethical lapses, a judge recommended

Thursday after a year-long inquiry.

But Prime Minister David Cameron immediately expressed deep misgivings about a key recommendation in the report — that the new regulator be enshrined in law.

"I'm proud of the fact that we've managed to survive hundreds of years without state regulation," Cameron said.

The impasse left questions about the eventual impact of Lord Justice Brian Leveson's sweeping probe of media

ethics in Britain. The inquiry was triggered by a tabloid phone hacking scandal that expanded to engulf senior figures in politics, the police and Rupert Murdoch's media empire.

Leveson said a law should be established to prevent more people being hurt by "outrageous" press behaviour that had "wreaked havoc with the lives of innocent people whose rights and liberties have been disdained."

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JUMPSTART INVESTS \$12 MILLION ACROSS CANADA



Canadian Tire Jumpstart has reached a monumental milestone: The national charity has helped more than 500,000 children across Canada between the ages of four and 18 take part in organized sports and recreation since its inception in 2005.

"This is a celebratory and significant milestone," says Bal Gosal, Canada's minister of sport. "Physical activity and access to sports for our kids is key to a healthier, stronger country. Canadian Tire Jumpstart is making a real difference in the lives of many young Canadians."

Thanks to generous donations as well as support from the Canadian Tire Corporation, dealers as well as vendors, Jumpstart has helped half a million

kids participate in 78 different activities, from swimming and hockey to football and dance. By the end of 2012, Jumpstart will distribute \$12 million back into Canadian communities to help kids who otherwise could not participate in having a sporting chance.

Jumpstart is unique in its ability to work in every community across Canada with 315 local chapters created and managed by

volunteers and caring Canadian citizens. These chapters work closely with more than 2,400 community partners to identify families with financial needs whose children would benefit from participating in the programs. It is a perfect formula for a national charity to help at the local level.

So how can ordinary Canadians help the one in three families that can't afford to pay the fees for organized sport and recreation programs? There are many ways to get involved. One hundred per cent of donations made at any Canadian Tire, Canadian Tire Petroleum or Mark's locations remain directly in your community. Or, one way this holiday season is to go online and donate to the Jumpstart Symbolic Giving Program; there's no better gift to give than the chance for a child to enrol in a season of sport and recreation.

Last Christmas, instead of exchanging gifts with her Canadian Women's Hockey League Toronto Furies' teammates, goaltender Sami Jo Small and the other players pitched in to buy a \$200 Canadian Tire Jumpstart hockey registration for a



Canadian child who wanted to play the sport they love but wasn't financially able.

"We plan to do it again this year," says Small, the three-time Olympic women's hockey team champion who is also a Canadian Tire Jumpstart ambassador. "You don't have to spend a lot to make a big difference in a child's life."

The momentum behind Jumpstart is awe-inspiring. "Our vision is more than getting children involved in sports and recreation — it's to have a country where all kids have a chance to fulfill their dreams," says Johnny Misley, the president of Canadian Tire Jumpstart.



Jumpstart

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JUMPSTART HELPS CANADIAN KIDS' DREAMS COME TRUE

Some of the best childhood memories come from having had the chance to learn a new activity. Just try to imagine not having had the opportunity to learn how to ride a bike.

The impact of Canadian Tire Jumpstart in Halifax communities is clear in a thank-you letter from a schoolteacher describing the transformation of an autistic student who had ridden a bicycle adapted for his use, borrowed from the IWK Health Centre and donated by Canadian Tire Jumpstart.

"At first the student required adult assistance to steer and pedal, but after a few days, he was travelling on his own," the teacher wrote. "The bike helped open many possibilities for his growth, both physically and academically."

"The support we get from Canadian Tire Jumpstart is extremely important to kids with a physical disability or who access our mental health services," says Andrea Wat-

ers, IWK recreation therapy professional practice chief.

This year, with Canadian Tire Jumpstart, the Clayton Park Canadian Tire is sponsoring the Emera Oval outdoor skating oval on the Halifax Common. It's also giving out 200 \$100 coupons to kids in need so they can buy skates and helmets.

"Our partnership with Jumpstart is all about supporting kids who can't afford to play sports," says Al Cunningham, the Clayton Park Canadian Tire's associate dealer.

At the Dartmouth Family YMCA, the national charity's donations mean that each year, 350 kids can attend basketball and summer day camps, swimming lessons and get a YMCA youth membership. "It means we don't have to turn away any family with financial needs," says Dartmouth Family YMCA manager John Meagher.



One way to give this holiday is through Jumpstart's Symbolic Giving Program, which allows you to give the gift of a season of sport to a child in need. From hockey lessons for \$200 to swimming lessons for \$75, find the perfect holiday gift.

For more information on Jumpstart or on how to donate or apply, please visit Jumpstart.canadiantire.ca or call 1-877-616-6600.



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*Approximate figures for 2012 YTD.

GOT MILKED? 'UDDERLY' AMAZING VIDEO GOES VIRAL



THE LIST
Neil Morton
metronews.ca

1 Leafs worth \$1 billion. The Toronto Maple Leafs franchise is now worth a whopping \$1 billion, according to Forbes, making them the first team in

the NHL to hit that figure. It's like the longer the Leafs go playing mediocre hockey and not making the playoffs, the more the brand is worth! Enough already.

2 **TipMine.** From how to take a perfect basketball shot, to dealing with arthritis, to tricks to beating nail-biting, a new Canadian website called TipMine has advice on just about everything. And you can even submit your own text or video tips to share with others. So stop biting your nails and check it out.

3 **#Babynames.** A couple named their newborn Like after Facebook last year, and this week it was revealed a couple who are obviously big Twitter fans apparently named their baby girl Hashtag — full name Hashtag Jameson. Just you wait: Someone in 2013 will name their baby Pinning after Pinterest.

4 **The smile epidemic.** A social-innovation project based out of Waterloo focuses on making people and organizations happy. The Smile Epidemic (@Smile_Epidemic on Twitter) suggests that doing simple things that make you smile for 30 days can change the way you look at the world. Go to TheSmileEpidemic.com to find out how to participate. And give a smile today.

5 **Coldplay.** Many fans got a rush of blood to the head when the band announced it's taking a long break from touring. "This is the last big show for three years or so," the band's leader Chris Martin said at a recent gig. Maybe Martin wants to spend more time with wife Gwyneth Paltrow having date nights in, listening to Coldplay songs like The Scientist.

6 **150 Shades Of Play.** Sexpert Em and Lo are releasing a new book, 150 Shades of Play: A Beginner's Guide to Kink, an A-to-Z manual that serves as kind of a companion piece to the Fifty Shades of Grey trilogy — but with real advice and quality writing. It's already working: I am cuffed to a bed wearing a kinky costume talking dirty as I dictate this to my wife.

7 **Chris Brown.** Imagine a Twitterverse free of Chris Brown? Well, that's the Christmas gift the R&B singer with massive anger issues gave us by deleting his account after sending misogynistic, violent tweets at comedian Jenny Johnson in response to much tamer tweets Johnson directed his way. Fingers crossed he never reactivates it.

8 **Milking.** The new planking is milking, which involves pouring containers of milk over your head in a public place. It originated with dudes in Newcastle, England. I think I did this as a submission move during a food fight in my high-school cafeteria in Peterborough in 1988. So these Newcastle dudes totally ripped me off. They just weren't born yet to know it. The video now has almost half a million views. Watch the hilarity at metronews.ca.

9 **Jenna Marbles.** If you haven't heard of entertainer/comedian Jenna Mourey, a.k.a. Jenna Marbles, you must check out her YouTube channel, which has nearly five million subscribers. With her (profanity-laced) social-commentary vids like Things I Don't Understand About Girls, and Apps Are Ruining My Life, she is hysterical fun.

10 **Google's Mr. Dressup.** Google Canada celebrated the 85th birthday of the late Ernie "Mr. Dressup" Coombs on Monday by placing a doodle of him on google.ca, with puppets Casey and Finnegan. Mr. Dressup was an iconic Canadian children's show that ran from 1967 to 1996. If you want to know more about Ernie Coombs and his place in pop culture, Google him.

11 **Lindsay Lohan.** The train wreck that is Lindsay Lohan had another normal week in the life that is Lindsay Lohan: She got arrested. Yes, late Wednesday night, she was arrested for allegedly punching a woman at an N.Y.C. nightclub. This girl needs the world's largest intervention ever.

Tiny egg no small potatoes



OWEN HUMPHREYS/PA

Record-breaking egg

Man thinks he has smallest hen egg

A bed-and-breakfast owner who believes he has found the world's smallest hen's egg confessed he took it in his pocket to show his pals at the pub.

Paul Rae found the dime-sized egg on Sunday alongside three normal ones in his henhouse at the business he runs with his wife, Margaret, in Humshaugh, Northumberland, northeast England.

METRO

Owner's viewpoint

"After I found it, I had a quick look online, then I took it to the pub. My friends said I should get in touch with the Guinness Book of Records."

Paul Rae, 52, owner of the Walwick Farm House bed and breakfast Rae admitted he keeps his prized find more safely now. "I don't carry it in my pocket now; it's wrapped in cotton wool," he said.

But wait!

Rival egg hopes to break record first

Rae's discovery comes at the same time Harry Evans found an egg that he claimed was barely larger than a dime at his farm near the market town of Bakewell, Derbyshire, central England.

"(Evans) weighed 7.3 grams but mine was just five grams," Rae said. "It's certainly not longer than 2.5 centimetres, which his was — it's less than that in length."

METRO

Egg-laying business

It's a stone-cold wholaidit

Now Rae is hoping to beat Evans to the record books.

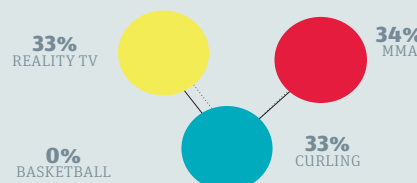
"There is no category for the world's smallest chicken egg, as far as I know, so I am going to try and get it recorded," Rae said.

Yet sadly he doesn't know which of his four Lohmann Brown hens, named Margaret's Girls in honour of his wife, spawned the now-famous egg. **METRO**



Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

With the hockey lockout, what are you watching a lot more of?



Twitter

@mattdagley:

The Metro Halifax has published a story about crosswalk safety everyday this week. Nothing else happening in this city?

@hillhorel:

Nice day in #dartmouth, #halifax heading to shubie to let the dog release some crazy!

@HilaryChoi:

Cant believe I spent 2 months trying to find a job in #Vancouver and I

couldnt find one, then I come back to #Halifax & find one in 15mins.

@UnkyDane:

I'm in #Halifax and still seeing #TML jerseys everywhere. Glad to see the #Leafs are so well represented across the country

@Stacy_Leigh_C:

Why is the weather so crap! If your going to be this cold then gives us snow! If not then bring us some sun! Please! #halifax #weather #crap



Keira Knightley wears imperialist Russian style well in *Anna Karenina*. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD
CROUSE AND
MARK BRESLIN



To Russia, with love

Anna Karenina. Luxe setting, costumes and Keira Knightley's cheekbones make for a screenplay that felt a bit too staged

Richard: Mark, the story itself is rather simple and has been told many times, so what distinguishes this version, aside from the cast (more on that later), is the sumptuous staging. Every frame of the film drips with beauty, from the sets to the clothes to Knightley's cheekbones. But that's to be expected from a big retelling of the story. What really captures my eye — and mind — is the unconventional way director Joe Wright has chosen to tell the tale. What did you think of the mix of reality and fantasy?

Mark: I think Joe Wright, to his credit, wanted to take the stiff-

ness out of a classic. Setting the movie in a theatre is an unusual move, which makes it feel intimate but also a bit claustrophobic and gimmicky. Perhaps he was trying to say that people in pre-revolutionary Russia were forced to play their social roles and this is the undoing of *Karenina*. The theatre setting allows for some breathtaking transitions but sometimes left me scratching my head.

RC: It's a risky bit of staging to be sure, but I imagined I was watching an *Anna Karenina* opera, with all the implied drama and grandeur, but none of the music. I think it's a brilliant piece of staging for a story that has enough passion and tragedy for two operas. What did you think of Knightley? She has a face meant to be framed by fur hats and veils, but apart from looking the part, she carefully modulates Anna's descent from socialite to outcast with grace and dignity while allowing notes of frustration and

misery to seep through.

MB: Your comment about music is interesting to me because at times I thought the actors were just about to break into song! I thought Knightley, who has to carry the movie, has the evanescent presence of a great silent movie actress. It was Vronsky (Aaron Taylor-Johnson) that felt miscast. He should be fatally dashing, but he just seems callow and expressionless. He's just not seductive enough to make me believe Anna would throw her life away for him. Jude Law, on the other hand, is perfect as the wronged husband. And it took a lot of guts for him to sport that hairline.

RC: You got that right. He does leave his matinee idol days behind with that haircut. I also liked Matthew Macfadyen, whose élan and rakish charm turns the womanizing Oblonsky into one of the film's high spots.

Synopsis

Russian writer Leo Tolstoy's classic story set in imperialist Russia begins with a family in tatters because of marital transgression. St. Petersburg aristocrat and socialite Anna Karenina (Keira Knightley) travels to Moscow to visit her womanizing brother Oblonsky (Matthew Macfadyen) and his long-suffering wife Dolly (Kelly Macdonald). Her counsel saves their marriage, but the trip proves to be the undoing of hers.

- Richard: ●●●●●
- Mark: ●●●●●

MB: There's great wit from a screenplay by Tom Stoppard and a sumptuous production design, but in the end — wow! — can Keira Knightley rock a hoop skirt.

2 SCENE

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Gerard Butler talks Playing For Keeps and men in the throes of midlife crisis

Rom com. Actor can relate to film's character — a former soccer star who causes chaos around him

ANNE
BRODIE
scene@metronews.ca

Gerard Butler produced and stars in *Playing for Keeps*, a romantic comedy about an ex-international soccer star who returns to small-town America, where his son and estranged wife live.

As George discovers and Butler knows, being famous can create problems.

"You get that as an actor in my position," says Butler.

"You can cause a bit of chaos even with the best intentions wherever you go. (My character) George is chaotic on the inside and he causes chaos wherever he goes, but he's trying his best



In *Playing For Keeps*, Gerard Butler is an ex-soccer star trying to get his life back together in small town America. HANDOUT

to take the right path. That right path is often blocked by those who would like to get their claws into him because he's an appealing character and yet

in himself he doesn't feel that at all. That's what's interesting about him," he says.

Catherine Zeta-Jones and Uma Thurman don't work

often. How did you lure them back?

I was kind of surprised myself. They were fun roles for them to get into, they are juicy comedic crazy roles

and yet they speak to you in a way that's relatable. People get those characters, where they're coming from.... That's what I loved about this movie.

What wisdom do you have for men in a midlife crisis?
For a man, it's about growing up.

You want to keep the child in you, but at the same time you've got those quick fixes and learn about commitment and sacrificing something and ultimately going beyond distraction and love (to) family (and) career. ... But that's tough because in this life we live there are so many temptations and distractions and you can't deny it, they're fun and exciting. I'm thinking, 'Yes, that's it.'

I'm finally growing up and then for a long period of time I'm thinking I have no purpose, no real maturity, and I'm not handling my responsibilities very well.

As one of the Sexiest Man Alive (2004) any words for Channing Tatum?

That was a long time ago! Just be yourself and you're judged on that. If you have to try, it's pretty sad. I'm sure Tatum didn't have to try.



December events at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic

December 2 at 2:00pm
Rosalee Peppard: Songs and Stories of the Halifax Explosion

December 8 10 am - 4 pm
Stop Animation Workshop
Require RSVP to macmicrs@gov.ns.ca

December 8 10 am - 4 pm
Steam Bending Frames for the Sea School's boat "Dorothea"
Require RSVP to macmicrs@gov.ns.ca

December 9 9:30am - 5 pm
Family Sunday
Make Christmas Crafts and the opening of LEGO City by the Sea

December 16
All A Boat Toys
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Thriller



Killing Them Softly

Director. Andrew Dominik

Stars. Brad Pitt,
James Gandolfini

Brad Pitt stalks around New Orleans as a hitman in Andrew Dominik's thriller, which drains the juice out of its underworld scenario by reminding us at every turn that it's actually an allegory about the American economy. The film is twisty and violent but also insufferably pretentious; it acts as if it's the first movie to equate crime and corporate thinking, when it's actually just the latest in a long line.

ADAM NAYMAN

Filmmaker learns the hard way to Beware of Mr. Baker

Documentary.

Jay Bulger delves into the personal life of Cream's explosive drummer Ginger Baker, and ends up with a broken nose

PAT
HEALY

Metro World News in Boston

Jay Bulger deliberated about how much of a part he should play in *Beware of Mr. Baker*. The writer and director's debut documentary focuses on the impulsive and explosive life of drummer Ginger Baker, who

is best known as the thunderous beat behind Cream, the 1960s band that defined the term "supergroup." It might at first seem superfluous to include the personal story of the filmmaker, especially because Baker is such a one-of-a-kind character whose history is dense with so much unabashed sex, drugs, rock 'n' roll and violence. But some of those forces inevitably leaked into Bulger's own life while making the film.

"I was like, 'God, I'm there so much and you hear my voice, I should probably show who I am,'" says the filmmaker. "And then when he broke my nose with a cane, I thought that was such an indicative moment of who he is and how he deals with people."

The assault begins and ends the doc, but between these personal bookends, Baker tells of a troubled childhood and how he escaped through an enchantment with rhythm and, soon after, heroin. Both are constants during his meteoric rise to fame and many falls from such dizzying heights.

Lounging in a leather chair in his South African home,



Cream drummer Ginger Baker is the subject of a new doc. GETTY IMAGES

Baker often berates Bulger. "It's like boxing," says Bulger. "Sometimes you've got to take a couple punches before you can get inside."

And he does get inside. The drummer opens up about the bridges he has burned between family and friends. Then Bulger interviews those same people, including bandmates Eric Clap-

ton, Jack Bruce and Steve Winwood. That Bulger would do this is why Baker hits him.

"I loved the challenge of doing a movie about somebody who is so potentially unlikable," says the filmmaker. "As much as you want to hate him, you've got to love him because he still keeps going," says Bulger, "and he never compromises."

Quoted

"I'm definitely past halfway... I think about it very much as a father. You just want to be around to see (your children) do everything. If I have so many days left, how am I filling those days? I've been agonizing over that one a bit like I never have before."

Brad Pitt, who stars in the new film *Killing Them Softly*, on his career and turning 49 in December.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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breaking dawn
part 2

PG

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NOW PLAYING CHECK THEATRE DIRECTORY FOR LOCATIONS AND SHOWTIMES

Female filmmakers to shine at Sundance

Entries announced.
Strong turnout by women shows more and more are breaking into the industry

The Sundance Film Festival has an apparent record lineup of female directors competing for its top honour this January.

Half the entries — eight of the 16 films — announced Wednesday in the festival's U.S. dramatic competition were

directed by women for the next installment of Robert Redford's independent-cinema showcase, which runs Jan. 17 to 27 in Park City, Utah. Going back to 1992, the best showing previously for female filmmakers was in 2000, when six of the 16 U.S. dramatic contenders were directed by women.

Sundance organizers were still trolling back to the early years of the festival's 33-year history, but this January's eight competition films appears to be most ever from women and the first time the entries have been evenly split between female and

male directors.

Among the competition films from female filmmakers are Francesca Gregorini's *Emanuel and the Truth About Fishes*, whose cast includes Jessica Biel and Frances O'Connor in the story of a troubled girl fixated on a mysterious neighbour; Lynn Shelton's *Touchy Feely*, featuring Rosemarie DeWitt, Alison Janney and Ellen Page in a tale of a massage therapist who develops a distaste for bodily contact; and Liz W. Garcia's *The Lifeguard*, with Kristen Bell as a reporter who moves home to Connecticut and takes a job as a

lifeguard. The festival's U.S. dramatic lineup also features the first Sundance entry for Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe, who stars as Allen Ginsberg in director John Krokidas' *Kill Your Darlings*. Male directors still dominate the big-screen, but the low-budget indie world has been narrowing the gender gap. Sundance director John Cooper said some Sundance film categories have had a nearly even split between male and female directors in the past, a sign that more and more women are breaking into filmmaking.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Austenland is one of the entries in the 2013 Sundance Film Festival.
SUNDANCE INSTITUTE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

My holiday wish?
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f t MIC MAC MALL

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THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., NOV. 30 TO THURS., DEC. 6. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

Halifax

Bayers Lake
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902-876-4800

Skyfall: The IMAX Experience (14),
Fri-Thu 12:30-6:40-9:50

Imax
190 Chain Lake Dr.,
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902-876-4800

Argo (14) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:25-6:55-9:30
Flight (STC), Fri-Thu 1:55-6:50-9:55
Killing Them Softly (STC), Fri-Sun 1:40-4:10-7:50-10:15, Mon 1:40-4:10-

7:25-10:15, Tue-Thu 1:40-4:10-7:50-10:15
Life of Pi (STC), Fri-Thu 7-10:05
Life of Pi 3D (STC), Fri-Thu 12:10-3:05-6:45-9:35
Pitch Perfect (PG), Fri-Thu 1:45-4:25-7:45-10:20
Red Dawn (STC), Fri-Thu 1:10-3:35-7:25-10:10
Rise of the Guardians (STC), Fri-Thu 1:50-4:20
Rise of the Guardians 3D (STC), Fri-Thu 12:15-3-6:30-9:10
The Sessions (STC) Fri-Thu 7:35-10
Silver Linings Playbook (STC), Fri-Thu 2-4:45-7:40-10:25
Skyfall (14), Fri-Tue 12:25-1:30-4-4:35-8-9, Wed 11-12:25-1:30-4-4:35-8-9, Thu 12:25-1:30-4-4:35-8-9
Talaash (STC), Fri-Mon 1:35-6:35-9:35, Tue 1:40-6:35-9:35, Wed-Thu

1:35-6:35-9:35
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (STC), Fri-Sat 12:40-1-3:30-4:05-7:05-7:30-9:45-10:15, Sun 12:50-1-3:30-4:05-7:05-7:30-9:45-10:15, Mon 12:40-1-3:30-4:05-7:30-9:45-10:15, Tue 12:40-1-3:30-4:05-7:05-7:30-9:45-10:15, Wed-Thu 1-3:30-4:05-7:05-7:30-9:45-10:15
Wreck-It Ralph (STC) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:50
Wreck-It Ralph 3D (STC), Fri-Thu 12:50-3:20-7:10-9:40

Oxford Theatre
6408 Quinpool Rd.
902-423-7488

How the Grinch Stole Christmas (PG)
Sun 1
Lincoln (STC) Fri 6:30-9:40 Sat

3-6:30-9:40 Sun 3:30-6:45-10 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:40

Park Lane
5657 Spring Garden Rd.
902-423-4860

Anna Karenina (STC) Fri 3:35-6:30-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:10-6:30-9:20 Mon-Thu 3:35-6:30-9:20
Flight (STC) Fri 3:15-6:20-9:25 Sat 6:20-9:25 Sun 12:15-3:15-6:20-9:25 Mon-Thu 3:15-6:20-9:25
Killing Them Softly (STC) Fri 3:50-7:30 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 3:50-7-9:30
Life of Pi (STC) Fri 3:30-6:50 Sat-Sun 12:35-6:50 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:50
Life of Pi 3D (STC) Fri 9:40 Sat-Sun 3:30-9:40 Mon-Thu 9:40
The Metropolitan Opera: La Clemenza Di Tito Live (STC) Sat 1:55
Red Dawn (STC) Fri 4:7:15-9:35

Sat-Sun 12:55-4:7:15-9:35 Mon-Thu 4-7:15-9:35
Rise of the Guardians (STC) Fri 3:55 Sat-Sun 1 Mon-Thu 3:55
Rise of the Guardians 3D (STC) Fri 6:55-9:10 Sat-Sun 3:35-6:55-9:10 Mon-Thu 6:55-9:10
Skyfall (14) Fri 3:20-6:40-9:45 Sat 12:15-3:20-6:40-9:45 Sun 12:20-3:20-6:40-9:45 Mon-Thu 3:20-6:40-9:45
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (STC) Fri 3:45-7:10-9:55 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:45-7:10-9:55 Mon-Thu 3:45-7:10-9:55

Lower Sackville

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902-869-2022

Killing Them Softly (STC), Fri 7-9:25, Sat-Sun 3:20-7:9:25, Mon-Thu 7-9:25
Life of Pi (STC), Fri 6:20, Sat-Sun 3:15-6:20, Mon-Thu 6:20
Life of Pi 3D (STC), Fri-Thu 9:15
Red Dawn (STC), Fri 7:05-9:20, Sat-Sun 4:05-7:05-9:20, Mon-Thu 7:05-9:20
Rise of the Guardians (STC), Fri 6:15, Sat-Sun 3:35-6:15, Mon-Thu 6:15
Rise of the Guardians 3D (STC), Fri-Thu 9:30
Skyfall (14), Fri 6:30-9, Sat-Sun 3:55-6:30-9, Mon-Thu 6:30-9
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (STC), Fri 6:45-8:50, Sat-Sun 3:45-6:45-8:50, Mon-Thu 6:45-8:50
Wreck-It Ralph (STC), Fri 6:35-9:35, Sat-Sun 4:10-6:35-9:35, Mon-Thu 6:35-9:35

How to dress a Russian aristocrat

Anna Karenina. Costume designer blended elements of imperialist Russia and 1950s couture to create an original look

Jacqueline Durran painstakingly pored over paintings and

photos from the 19th century to prepare for designing the elaborate fashions featured on the big screen in *Anna Karenina*.

But the costume designer said director Joe Wright had his own take on interpreting 1870s Russian style for the film adaptation of the classic novel — and exact fashion replicas of the era weren't chief among them.

"The only costumes that are really an attempt to be accurate of the period are the Russian peasant costumes; the other costumes are all stylized," Durran said in a phone interview from London.

"He wanted me to reference '50s couture — which has a very strong silhouette — and combined that approach with the 1870s shape," said Durran, **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



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Argo (14) Digital, Fri-Thu 9:10
Flight (STC) Digital, Fri-Thu 12:30-3:45-6:55-9:55
Killing Them Softly (STC) Dolby Stereo, Digital Fri-Thu 1:30-4:25-7:40-10:10
Life of Pi (STC) Dolby Stereo, Fri-Thu 1:10-4:15-6:50-10:20
Life of Pi 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo, Fri-Thu 4:10-7:45
The Met Opera Series Live (STC) Dolby Stereo, Sat 2
Red Dawn (STC) Dolby Stereo, Fri-Thu 1:40-4:15-6:50-10:20
Rise of the Guardians (STC) Dolby Stereo, Fri-Thu 12:35-1:15-3:05-6:45
Rise of the Guardians 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo, Fri-Thu 3:40-6:15-8:50



The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2. HANDOUT

Skyfall (14) Digital, Fri-Thu 12:50-4:10-9:15 Dolby Stereo, Fri-Thu 12:20-3:15-6:25-9:35
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo, Fri 1:10-1:20-1:40-3:50-4:20-4:30-6:40-7:15-7:30-

9:25-10:10-10:15 Digital, Dolby Stereo, Sat 1:10-1:20-3:50-4:20-6:40-7:15-7:30-9:25-10:10-10:15 Digital, Dolby Stereo, Sun-Tue 1:10-1:20-1:40-3:50-4:20-4:30-6:40-7:15-7:30-9:25-10:10-10:15 Digital, Dolby Stereo, Wed 1:20-1:40-3:50-4:20-4:30-6:40-7:15-

7:30-9:25-10:10-10:15 Digital, Dolby Stereo, Thu 1:20-1:40-3:50-4:20-4:30-7:15-7:30-9:25-10:10-10:15
Wreck-It Ralph (STC) Dolby Stereo, Fri-Thu 12:55
Wreck-It Ralph 3D (STC) Digital, Fri-Thu 3:30-6:30-9:20

Truro

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20 Treaty Trail, Millbrook
902-895-8020

Flight (STC) Digital, Fri 6:35-9:20 Digital, Sat-Sun 2:35-6:35-9:20 Digital, Mon-Thu 6:35-9:20
Killing Them Softly (STC) Digital, Fri 7:40-9:40 Digital, Sat-Sun 2:50-7:40-9:40 Digital, Mon-Thu 7:40
Life of Pi (STC) Digital, Fri-Thu 6:40-9:30, Sat-Sun 3:30-6:30, Mon-Thu 9:30

Red Dawn (STC) Digital, Fri 6:55-9:35 Digital, Sat-Sun 2:45-6:55-9:35 Digital, Mon-Thu 6:55-9:35
Rise of the Guardians (STC) Digital, Sat-Sun 2:40
Rise of the Guardians 3D (STC), Fri-Thu 6:50-9:10
Skyfall (14) Digital, Fri 6:30-9:15 Digital, Sat-Sun 2:55-6:30-9:15 Digital, Mon-Thu 6:30-9:15
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (STC), Digital Fri 6:45-9:25, Digital Sat-Sun 2:30-6:45-9:25, Digital Mon-Thu 6:45-9:25

Bridgewater

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349 Lahave St.,
902-527-4020
Flight (STC) Fri 6:20-9:25 Sat 2:45-6:20-9:25 Sun 2:45-7:05 Mon 7:05 Tue 6:20-9:25

Killing Them Softly (STC) Fri 7:10-9:40 Sat 2:30-7:10-9:40 Sun 2:30-7:40 Mon 7:40 Tue 7:10-9:40 Wed-Thu 7:40
Life of Pi (STC) Fri-Sat 9:30 Tue 9:30
Life of Pi 3D (STC) Fri 6:40 Sat 2:55-6:40 Sun 2:55-7:35 Mon 7:35 Tue 6:40 Wed-Thu 7:35
Red Dawn (STC) Fri 7:35 Sat 2:40-7:35 Sun 2:40-7:45 Mon 7:45 Tue 7:25 Wed-Thu 7:45
Rise of the Guardians (STC) Fri-Sat 9:10 Tue 9:10
Rise of the Guardians 3D (STC) Fri 6:50 Sat 3:05-6:50 Sun 3:05-7:25 Mon 7:25 Tue 6:50 Wed-Thu 7:25
Skyfall (14) Fri 6:15-9:20 Sat 2:35-6:15-9:20 Sun 2:35-7 Mon 7 Tue 6:15-9:20 Wed-Thu 7
The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (STC) Fri 6:30-9:15 Sat 3:15-6:30-9:15 Sun 3:15-7:15 Mon 7:15 Tue 6:30-9:15 Wed-Thu 7:15



Psychedelic rockers Black Moth Super Rainbow keep their distance with their poppy, expletive-laden new offering, *Cobra Juicy*. SEVEN FIELDS OF APHELION

Masking shortcomings

New music. Tom Fec from Black Moth Super Rainbow talks singing ability, wearing masks

HEIDI
PATALANO
Metro World News

Tom Fec, otherwise known as Tobacco, otherwise known (with other band members) as Black Moth Super Rain-

bow, is something of a man of mystery. Sequestered in the woods outside of Pittsburgh, Fec sings only through the electronic machinations of a vocoder, so it's rare when a journalist gets to hear his absent-minded meanderings without a filter.

"I have a lot of limitations because I can't sing," he explains. "I can pretty much get anything I want out of the vocoder, so that's why I go with it."

Masks are also a major theme for this enigmatic band, who just released their fifth full-length album. Like most of the BMSR albums before it, the cover art for *Cobra Juicy* features a haunting face. The hollow eyes of it seem to echo the distance Fec puts between himself and the fans of his work, and it gives the psychedelic trash-rock he makes that much more effectively creepy.

"I grew up on Garbage Pail Kids and Mad Balls and all that kind of s—," Fec says. "I was always drawn to this big colourful kind of ugly, but well-designed faces and I

Quoted

"I have a lot of limitations because I can't sing."

Tom Fec
Talking about making music.

think that's what it'll always be. I think (the cover art) is as important as the music. I think it frames it all so I have to make it for every album."

The care that Fec puts into the design of those creepy faces is purposeful, he says. *Cobra Juicy* was funded by a Kickstarter campaign and Fec wants to be sure that fans are getting something for their money.

"There aren't a lot of bands who really care about their album covers, it feels like," he says.

"They're really boring and it makes sense to me why you would want to just download it and not own a physical copy. It's like, 'Why would I want this stupid picture? Why would I want this in my house?'"

Pop with an edge

Getting the juicy sound

HEIDI
PATALANO
Metro World News

As for the sound of the new album, itself, Tom Fec says "it's about as poppy as I thought we'd ever do."

But he also adds that fans can expect to hear a meaner, sharper edge in

the lyrics. The album is the first of the band's to feature a parental advisory sticker, after all.

"It's a more fun album. It's a little more like me, I guess. It's a littler meaner," he says.

"It's not nice because I always thought of Black Moths as my baby and I've always curated the way I release it to the public in a nice way. At the end of the day, it's not totally who I am. I guess it's just more honest."

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Demi Moore ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Moore on the mend: Is a half-her-age hunk helping her heal?

Demi Moore has reportedly moved on from her year-old split from Ashton Kutcher and is now dating 26-year-old art dealer Vito Schnabel, according to People magazine. Moore, who recently celebrated her 50th birthday, and Schnabel were reportedly "dancing and grinding all over each

other" at a recent party in Jodhpur, India, thrown by Naomi Campbell. "It's really happening," a source says of the pairing. "There was a time when Vito was kind of cool with (Kutcher), so it seems a little weird." Moore and Schnabel are expected to attend the upcoming Art Basel celebration in Miami.



Twitter



@TheRealRoseanne

I haven't conceded the election since my votes in 24 states have NOT BEEN COUNTED yet! what kind of system do we have-a winner b4 the count?



@Joan_Rivers

Lindsay Lohan was just arrested in NYC for allegedly punching a woman in the face. 50 bucks says it was a TV critic who hated "Liz & Dick".



@carrieunderwood

That awkward moment when you wave at a cute little girl and the dude standing right in front of her thinks you're flirting with him!



@GarryShandling

Big day: Just paid-off my student loan!

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Pull out the pre-written, Lindsay Lohan story template



THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

With all the divorces, marriages and arrests I report on, being a gossip columnist can sometimes feel like being in Groundhog's Day — and Lindsay Lohan is my Ned Ryerson.

Yes, the troubled starlet was arrested yet again for punching another woman at a New York City nightclub around 4 a.m. on Thursday morning. Lohan apparently was "partying hard" at the club, called Avenue, and was "looking for trouble," a source tells RadarOnline. That trouble manifested itself through a clubgoer named Tiffany Eve Mitchell. Apparently, Mitchell asked Lohan for a photograph. Lohan, who was "drinking heavily and doing cocaine," said no and was "really rude about it." Mitchell kept dancing but Lohan wouldn't let this infraction go. Again, from another eye-witness: "She totally sucker-punched that girl in the face out of nowhere! Nobody saw it coming," RadarOnline.com reports. "Lindsay



went wild. She was kicking and screaming, cursing at the girl and then spat at her. The girl looked like she wanted to fight back at Lindsay, but was too startled by all the commotion to react."

So, the cops were called. Lohan was spotted attempting to leave the club, hopping into the passenger seat of her car before cops pulled her out and arrested her. Lohan was heard yelling, "Are you kidding me?" as she was led away, a source says.

She was released four hours later and given a citation and a court date. Being a refined wordsmith, I'm not good at math, but by my calculation, that is probably her one millionth court appointment to date.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two and a Half Men star to return to sitcom after slinging mud



Halle Berry

Despite making news with a video in which he called Two and a Half Men filth and urged viewers to stop watching, Angus T. Jones will be returning to the hit sitcom when production picks back

up in January, according to TMZ.

"Angus expects to report to work after the holiday break," a source says. "He intends to honour his contract through the end of the season."

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3 TIPS

Give Martha Stewart a run for her money

First dinner party.
Here are some tips to ensure your guests enjoy their evening

**EMMA
GODMERE**
life@metronews.ca

Sure, beer and pizza are perennial party favourites. But treating guests to a home-cooked meal? Now there's a delicious accomplishment.

Planning your first dinner party may sound like a heaping helping of work. But if you're not the type to keep coasters and cocktail napkins on hand, have no fear: playing host isn't all that hard.

You don't even have to have a full-fledged dining room. Ottawa food blogger Kelly Brisson regularly seats her dinner guests around a large, folding

card table that she easily stores away.

"Once the food's on it, no one really looks at the table anyway," she laughs.

Brisson has written about crafting simple, savoury meals on her blog, *The Gouda Life*, for the last four years, and is well-versed on dinner party do's and don'ts. The first thing a new host or hostess should keep in mind, she suggests, is keeping a cool head.

"You really want to spend the day enjoying the process of cooking and just setting up the table the day of the party," she says.

Reduce your day-of duties by tidying your space the day before and preparing side dishes in advance that can be easily reheated prior to your guests' arrival. When it comes to the feat of the feast, consider items that you have cooked up before, or that you're comfortable making and know taste great.

Keep friends' dietary restrictions in mind as you plan your

Easy appetizer. Roasted Curry Cauliflower Dip

1. Preheat oven to 375 F. Place cauliflower, garlic cloves, curry, cumin, cinnamon and salt into bowl. Drizzle with olive oil. Toss onto baking sheet and roast 15 minutes, until edges of florets are golden brown. Flip and roast another 8 minutes until everything is golden and fork-tender.

2. Place in food processor with Greek yogurt, lemon juice and a drizzle of olive oil and blend until smooth. Taste for seasoning and add more salt if necessary. Spoon into large bowl, add a touch more olive oil and sprinkle of cayenne pepper. Serve with veggies and pita.

- 1 head cauliflower, cut into bite-sized florets
- 4 cloves garlic, whole
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) curry powder
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) ground cumin
- pinch cinnamon and salt
- olive oil
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) plain Greek yogurt
- 1 to 2 tbsp (15 to 30 ml) lemon juice
- cayenne pepper, to garnish (optional)



Preparation is one of the keys to a dinner party. iStock

menu. No one should feel left out or think they have to bring their own dish.

That said, if a guest offers to bring something, it's smart to accept. "Let them help you out," says Brisson.

Stock up on ice, Brisson suggests, and have some extra wine and non-alcoholic beverages on hand. Another tip: Craft a special cocktail to offer guests as they arrive. "It makes people feel welcome and it gives you something to talk about — a bit of an icebreaker."

Most importantly? Have fun. "It's just dinner — whoever you've having over is there to eat and enjoy your company," she sums up.

Liquid Assets

Excellent dinner mates



LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

While I like having people over to the house as much as the next guy, plotting a dinner party ranks just below ironing on my list of things I can't stand doing. I know I'm in the minority.

With more and more people DIYing their homesteads into dream palaces, the inclination to have friends over to enjoy the fruits of their labours — during a nice meal accented with a glass of wine — has never been stronger.

Finding an all-purpose dinner wine that will work well with a variety of menus while appealing to a wide range of picky palates isn't easy.

Pinot grigio is my go-to grape on the white side. Italy's Santa Margherita 2011 Pinot Grigio (\$16.95 to \$21.49) has a crisp, refreshing, lightly citrusy personality that makes a very accommodating table mate. For a red people-pleaser, think sweet rather than dry. E & J Gallo's 2010 Apothic (\$14.99 to \$17.99) from California has a cocktail vibe to its ripe, just-crushed red berry fruit flavour, thanks to a supportive backbone of residual sugar. Add a slight chill and it pairs remarkably well with most main courses.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.



The last of the firsts

This is the final in a week-long series of articles chronicling some of the rites of passage many of Metro's readers will experience as they leave the nest or school and head out on their own.

- **Share.** Have you ever thrown a dinner party? Any tips you'd like to share in making it a success? Visit metronews.ca/features/firsts, tweet us or even turn to the person next to you and share your stories.

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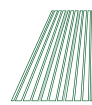
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Have a few gaps in your schedule you're looking to fill?
Whether you're hoping to dance, drink or just relax, check out these hot upcoming events.



MIX OF SIX
Jenna Conter
halifax@metronews.ca



One night only: Big Sugar

Big Sugar returns to Halifax by hitting the Olympic Hall stage on Friday at 8 p.m. Revolution Per Minute, which came out last year, is the band's latest release and includes the singles Roads Ahead and Little Bit A All Right, which landed in the top 10 on Canadian active rock charts. I'm sure they'll dig down to play some fan favourites too. Visit: sonicconcerts.com



On display: The Sensual World

On now through Dec. 11, The Sensual World: Underwater Photography of the Human Form New Work by Steve Richard is turning heads at Argyle Fine Art on Barrington Street. A celebration of the beauty of the human form, this collection is a unique series of subjects photographed underwater. Stop to see this hauntingly beautiful show.



Maritime Fusion with Jimmy Rankin

Cape Breton's Jimmy Rankin is a critically acclaimed master musician and the creative force behind the Rankins' stratospheric multi-platinum career. With a whopping eight ECMA nods this year alone and a brand-new Christmas album on the way, Jimmy remains one of the East Coast's hottest exports. He comes home for a Friday and Saturday holiday reunion with Symphony Nova Scotia. artscentre.dal.ca



Market mayhem: Beary Merry Winter Market

The Halifax Crafters Winter Market, which started at the Khyber with fewer than 20 crafters nine years ago, has now expanded to the Olympic Centre with more than 80 crafters. The market has become a key part of the Christmas-season for shopping Haligonians looking for one-of-a-kind gifts. This year's winter market will be held on Saturday and Sunday. Be there and you're on the way to a very crafty holiday.



Now open: Hali Deli

Located at 2389 Agricola St., this Old World Delicatessen brings Halifax's deli-diner reputation par with cities like Montreal. Everything from delicious and gigantic deli sandwiches, lox and shmear platters, soups and salads are available in this charming deli. Come taste the love and a little bit of Jewish culture. Visit halideli.com.



On stage: I'll Be Home For Christmas

On through Dec. 31, Grafton Street Dinner Theatre presents I'll Be Home for Christmas, featuring the whole Robertson clan. Mom and Dad are thrilled to have the kids back for a family Christmas. The kids, however, would be more thrilled to open the presents and get back to the city. Saddle up as you spend the holidays at the Robertson dude ranch. Visit graftonstreetdinnertheatre.com.

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Everlasting beauties: Choosing an artificial Christmas tree



DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Choosing an artificial Christmas tree for your home can be an easy al-

ternative to the delivery, set-up, care and messy removal involved in getting a real one. Plus, think about all those pine needles on your hardwood or carpeting.

They're also fireproof, which makes them a favourite for apartment and condo dwellers who may not be able to have the real thing.

Artificial trees now come with long-lasting lights, realistic branches and designer touches like snow, ice crystals and pine cones. Some even come pre-decorated.

Size

Match the size of a tree to your ceiling's height and reduce the size by six inches.

For example, if you have an eight-foot ceiling, choose a tree that is 7 1/2 feet in height. In rooms with exceptionally high ceilings, choose a tree that is at least two-thirds of the ceiling's

much floor space you will be taking up once the tree is assembled.

If space is at a premium, then consider a slim tree where the diameter of the base is less than four feet.

Lights

A quality tree will have 75 to 100 lights for each foot of the tree's height.

Look for features

one bulb burns out or is removed, the other lights will continue to work.

Most artificial trees come pre-lit with clear/warm white lights.

If you want trendy coloured lights instead, simply add them to the tree and don't plug in the clear pre-wired ones.

A great way to change the look of your tree from year to year is with the investment of some new coloured lights.

Branches/tips

The more branches and tips on the tree, the fuller it will look and the more room you'll have to hang decorations. Look for exceptional details like pine cones, a variety of baby-looking branch tips/needles, spacing between the branch layers of less than eight to 10 inches.

This will give the tree a full, realistic look. You can also wire on real pine cones and add fresh greenery to the tree for a lush look.

Oh, thank you! Thank you! Thank you!... I love it!... I can't believe you got

ternative to the delivery, set-up, care and messy removal involved in getting a real one. Plus, think about all those pine needles on your hardwood or carpeting.

They're also fireproof, which makes them a favourite for apartment and condo dwellers who may

Price

Artificial Christmas trees cost \$79 to \$1,200 depending on height, the number of lights, amount of branches and the quality of construction. On average, a good tree will cost \$30 to \$50 for each linear foot of the tree's height.

height.

Anything shorter will look dwarfed in the room.

Also consider the diameter at the bottom of the tree.

This will determine how

like floor

step pedals to make turning the lights on and off easier and a continuous light source, meaning if

Cleaning

Scrub the glass, not the art

Why does it matter when you clean glass on a picture frame hanging on the wall that you spray your cloth to clean the glass, rather than spraying the glass directly, then using your cloth to clean the glass? I don't see any difference.



CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

Well firstly, from a cleaning perspective, you're

cleaning the glass either way. However, the reason it is best practice to always spray your cloth then wipe the glass is two-fold.

Firstly, you use less cleaning product.

Remember, I am always an advocate for less is more and less cleaning solution is generally a good thing.

But the second reason to spray the cloth is that when you spray the liquid on the glass, it starts to run down the glass.

It's easy to use too much liquid. The excess liquid that you are unable to catch goes down the glass inside the frame and ultimately bleeds on the art, thus damaging the art or the matting that surrounds the art.



If you spray the glass directly, it can run down to the frame and damage the art. ISTOCK IMAGES

Maximize your green when decorating this season



QUEEN OF GREEN
Tovah Paglaro
green@metronews.ca

How do I decorate for a green Christmas?

Christmas decor is big business! North Americans spend upwards of \$18 billion a year on seasonal decorations. And while I urge you to opt out and take a DIY approach to creating a festive atmosphere, it does equate to an awful lot of buying power!

So this season, if you are making purchases, make sure you're capitalizing on that buying power by investing in a green Christmas.

Christmas Lights

Christmas lights are a must for many, but make sure you use electricity sparingly. LED lights are now the standard. If you haven't adopted them yet, please do! This is one area where it's greenest to recycle the old and buy the new.

Maximize your green by using a timer to light up those LED lights only during prime hours.

Choose Reusable & Natural Materials

There is nothing festive about filling your home with toxic materials, like BPA- or PVC-laden plastics.



Less is more! Don't get too swept up in the need to buy. ISTOCK IMAGES

bobbles, the worst offenders are tinsel and artificial snow — you know, the aerosol spray for windows.

Invest instead in items made from long-lasting, non-toxic materials like wood, ceramics and felt. These will bring joy year after year.

Hit a Craft Fair

Craft fairs are making a comeback, and for good reason. Brimming with sustainable local cheer, vendors and buyers alike seek to celebrate in style.

Local artisans often find innovative ways to create using up-cycled items, natural materials and handmade methods.

I always find a gem to add to the tree and leave with plenty of inspiration for our own homemade items.

Less Is More

The greatest thing you can do to keep your holiday decor green is to take a less-is-more approach. Get swept up in the holiday spirit, but don't get swept up in the over-consumptive need to buy. A few treasured items can go a long way toward creating holidays that celebrate kindness, gratitude and family.

And there's nothing merry about the production pro-

cess used to create plastic decor. Aside from plastic

Have questions for the Queen of Green? Write to tpaglaro@davidssuzuki.org or tweet @DavidSuzukiQoG



Welcome the cookie season with tasty Chocolate-Dipped Coconut Meringue Drops

Even if you avoid baking all year long, there's a very good chance the allure of the holidays will seduce you into having a go at a batch of cookies.

And why not? It's sweet food for a sweet season. Of course, the cookie season can be hazardous to your waistline. If possible, it's best to keep in mind Julia Child's motto: Everything in moderation. Go

Each one is like a candy bar in a cookie suit.

1. Heat the oven to 350 F. Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper or spray with cooking

5. In a large bowl, use an electric mixer to beat the egg whites with the salt, cream of tartar and vanilla until they form soft peaks. Add

prepared baking sheets.

6. Bake for 25 minutes, or until the meringue drops are beige (they will be soft at the centre).

Amazing! It's my favourite!... How did you know?... This is

this for me...

spray and dust with flour, shaking off the excess.

2. In a food processor, pulse the cranberries until finely chopped. Set aside.

3. Spread the coconut on a third baking sheet or in a roasting pan. Bake on the oven's middle shelf until golden, about 5 minutes. Let cool. Reduce the oven to 275 F.

4. Once the coconut has cooled, in a medium bowl combine it with the cranberries.

the sugar, 2 tablespoons at a time, beating until stiff peaks form. Fold in the coconut cranberry mixture. Drop rounded tablespoons of the batter, 1 inch apart, on the

Ingredients

- 1 cup dried cranberries
- 2 cups unsweetened shredded coconut
- 4 large egg whites, room temperature
- Pinch of salt
- Pinch of cream of tartar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup sugar
- 6 oz bittersweet chocolate, chopped

Put the sheet pans on cooling racks and let the meringue drops cool completely.

7. Bring a small saucepan of water to a gentle simmer. Set a larger stainless bowl over the saucepan, then add the chocolate. Heat the chocolate, stirring occasionally, until melted. One at a time, dip the bottoms of the cookies into the chocolate, then set chocolate side up on parchment to cool. To set the chocolate faster, the cookies can be refrigerated.

8. Store the cookies in an airtight container and refrigerate for up to 1 week. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ SARA MOULTON OF PUBLIC TELEVISION'S SARA'S WEEKNIGHT MEALS**

Triple-Ginger Cranberry Bars. An intoxicating combo for the holidays

These bars are a serious triple-ginger threat. We packed three varieties of ginger into these tender, chewy bars — grated fresh ginger, dry ground ginger and chopped crystallized ginger.

1. In small bowl or glass, combine the cranberries and liqueur. Cover and let

the oven to 350 F. Coat a 9-by-13-inch baking pan with cooking spray, then line it with parchment paper.

3. In a medium bowl, use an electric mixer to beat together the brown sugar, butter and salt until light and fluffy. With the mixer running, add the eggs, one at a time, scrap-

soak overnight.

2. When ready to cook, heat

Ingredients

- 1 cup dried cranberries
- 1/2 cup Saint Germain elder flower liqueur
- 2 cups packed brown sugar
- 12 tbsp (1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter, room temp
- 1 1/2 tsp salt
- 3 eggs
- 2 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tbsp grated fresh ginger
- 1 tsp dry ground ginger
- 1/2 cup chopped crystallized ginger
- 1/2 cup slivered almonds

ing the bowl between each addition.

4. Stir in the flour, fresh ginger, ground ginger and the soaked cranberries (they should have completely absorbed the liqueur).

5. Spread the mixture into the prepared baking pan. Sprinkle the top with the chopped crystallized ginger and the slivered almonds. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes, or until light golden brown and slightly firm to the touch. Let cool completely in the pan, then cut into 24 bars. Store in an airtight container at room temperature for up to a week. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Holiday craft and baking



Snowman and Santa: The final product. SUBMITTED

YOU'VE GOT THE COOKIES — NOW PRESENT THEM IN STYLE

STEVEN AND CHRIS RETURN WITH NEW EPISODES JAN. 7 ON CBC. THEIR ROSTER OF EXPERTS DELIVER IDEAS AND ADVICE ON TOPICS INCLUDING HOME DECOR, FOOD AND ENTERTAINING, HEALTH AND FITNESS AND MORE.

In this fun family holiday DIY, Steven shows us that you can give Christmas cookies in style.

Simple pastry boxes are transformed into festive sculptures fit to house any holiday treat!

Directions

Snowman:

1. Stack three white pastry boxes one on top of the other.
2. Add button detailing for some three dimensional interest and to create eyes and a smile for your snowman.
3. Use some birch bark scrap to create a nose.
4. Bend and wrap wire into the shape of a top hat and secure it using a dot of hot glue.

5. Insert twigs with berries as arms for your snowman. (Note: You may also have to secure them with a dot of hot glue.)

6 Add some cookies and you are ready to go!

Santa:

1. Stack red boxes one on top of the other.
2. Add buttons and ribbon detailing to create Santa's face.
3. The small hat on Santa's head was sold as a doggy Christmas hat at the dollar store.
4. Ribbon and birch bark finished off Santa's look, creating his signature belt.
5. Put some cookies in his belly and give this fun gift to anyone!

Make your houseguests feel welcome

Full house. For many, the holiday season means some overnight guests

TINA CHADHA

Metro World News in New York City

Not all of us have the luxury of a guest bedroom, but regardless, we want our loved ones to

Don't wait for them to ask

Set out a towel and some small luxuries — like an eye mask or those little bottles of fancy body wash and lotion you swiped from your last hotel stay — on the foot of their makeshift bed.

Also, write down your internet password so they can log on to your computer without feeling like a burden each time they want to go online to check their email.

Clear the area so that when they get there, they have a place to settle into.

This might involve setting up the air mattress in advance, clearing out a drawer for their things, making some room in your own closet or investing in a luggage rack to prop up their suitcase.

Give them a tour

Even if you live in a teeny, tiny apartment, show your guests around.

Take them to the kitchen and point out the cor-

flavour of Haagen-Dazs — you've stocked up on, and invite them to help themselves.

The all-important nightstand

A few touches can make even sleeping on your couch feel like a retreat.

Place a table next to their bed with the following key items: A lamp in case they want to read before bed, some magazines, a book you like and a carafe with water. You may also want to add a few fresh flowers if they aren't allergic.

beautiful bed.

Iron their sheets for that crisp, fresh feel and include both a lighter cover and heavier blanket to give them options.

Put out fresh cut flowers (the ones from the bodega work just fine) and finish things off with a chocolate on their pillow.

Need more space for your guests?

With cold weather upon us, homeowners may wonder

guests all winter long. Additions can be notoriously time-consuming and costly, but that doesn't mean you have to feel cramped in your current space. To add livable square footage to your existing home, look to a space you may not be using to its full potential — the basement.

Walls

A fresh coat of paint is one of the easiest and cost-effective ways to spruce up the appearance of any space. Choosing the right paint for the job is just as important as the colour. Basement walls are more prone to moisture, mold and

so perfect, I'm speechless... Just... wow! Thanks so much!... This is just

feel comfortable when they stay over.

Here are a few tips to help make them feel like they're at a cozier Four Seasons than staying in that bedroom you only use once a year — or that damp basement space.

Find them a place

Before your out-of-town visitors arrive, designate a space that will be just theirs.

rect cabinets for glasses, etc. and how to use the coffee maker.

Then show them the snacks — like their favorite

Go the extra mile

To really give your guests the royal treatment, make a

whether they have enough space to accommodate their families, pets and holiday

mildew damage, so the better paint companies have developed protective coatings.



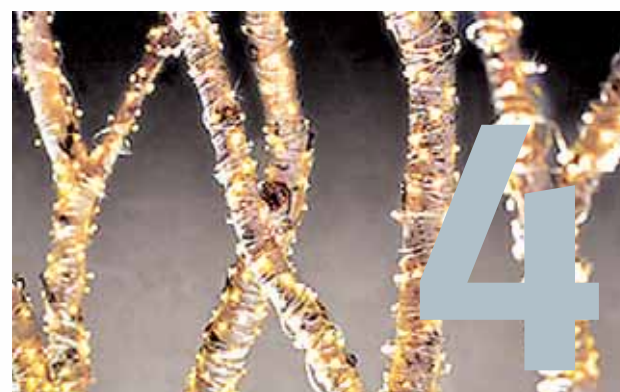
DwellStudio's slanted tea light candle holders stand up to wintry winds. \$248 (set of three), dwellstudio.com



When you're a reindeer this sparkly, there are plenty of reasons to bust a move. \$40 each, JCPenny



Restoration Hardware' starry lights are strung along bendable copper wire and come with a battery pack, meaning you can elegantly wrap them around mirrors, wreaths, planters or anything that needs a little sparkle. \$15 to \$55 restorationhardware.com



Inspired by the Fibonacci curve, these curious candelabras from Black + Blum can link together to create quite the centerpiece. \$30 per two-candle piece, black-blum.com

Say no to traditional tinsel and lights and choose sparkling decor and twinkling touches for your winter wonderland

MONICA WEYMOUTH
Metro World News in Philadelphia

7

Ways to get your holiday glow on



Go the extra mile for your guests and give them a space that will be just theirs. iStock Images

Flooring

It may seem a daunting task, but updating your

area. If you are working on a budget, you may also

popular look of hardwood and luxurious stone.

Carpeting is also a great option to make a space cozier, but be sure to have an adequate sub-floor in place to avoid water damage and replacement down the road.

Furniture

Even if you don't have the budget to invest in new furniture, you can easily make old pieces or garage sale finds look like new.

Sand and refinish wooden pieces, or paint them a matte colour for a more modern look.

Re-uphol-

what I wanted!... Wow, thanks!...

basement floor covering will do wonders to improve the look of this space and make it a cozy, usable

look at today's laminate and vinyl tile options, which are available in a wide variety of finishes and styles.

Some even imitate the

ster an old sofa or simply purchase a furniture slipcover for an instant fix. Re-cover old chair and couch cushions and add decorative pillows and throws for a stylish flair.

NEWS CANADA



If you can't decorate a real-deal evergreen, Restoration Hardware's snow-dusted Winter Wonderland trees are an enchanting consolation prize. \$149 to \$189, restoration-hardware.com



Pottery Barn Kids' light-up snowflakes add a little magic to the air. \$38 to \$55, potterybarnkids.com



Frosted votives nest in lichen moss for Olive & Cocoa's charming botanic candle boxes. \$44 each, two for \$74, oliveandcocoa.com

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Mooseheads trio have more than just points to prove



Halifax Mooseheads forward Luca Ciampini celebrates a goal earlier this season. JEFF HARPER/METRO FILE

QMJHL. While the 1st line gets all the glory, 2nd fiddles are making some beautiful music



PHILIP CROUCHER
philip.croucher@metronews.ca

The Halifax Mooseheads don't want to be seen as a one-line team.

Sure, the star trio of Nathan MacKinnon, Jonathan Drouin and Martin Frk is as good as a line gets right now in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League, but it's not the only unit putting up points.

Halifax's other lines are also pitching in, most notably the second unit of Matthew Boudreau, Luca Ciampini and Darcy Ashley.

The trio has combined for 31 goals and 71 points through 25 games, totals that match or surpass other first lines in the QMJHL.

"Sometimes teams will just look at the top line but we think in our heads we're good players too," said forward Matthew Boudreau, whose 15 goals are tied for second on the team. "We want to show the team

and everybody that we're a part of the team also."

The trio is not just doing that offensively. As solid as the offensive numbers are, maybe more impressive is the defensive ones. The line is a combined plus-47, led by Ashley at plus-17.

"For our line, and for Luca and I especially, it's a big deal this year," said Boudreau, who is plus-14. "Last year we were in the minus. I think it's been huge for our team, helping them to not get scored on. I think everyone appreciates that and we're proud of it also."

What the line isn't so proud of is their play the past few games, something they hope to improve on this weekend when Halifax hosts the Chicoutimi Saguenéens Friday at 7 p.m. and the Victoriaville Tigres Sunday at 4 p.m.

The line has just two points in its past four games, and is a minus-7.

"We've been slumping, but we are still working hard and trying to get things going," said Ciampini, who has 11 goals and 12 assists.

"When we have success, we're using each other well. We are not a selfish line. We just move the puck around really well."

Following the Herd

Moose still No. 1 despite shutout loss

The Halifax Mooseheads are the No. 1-ranked team in the Canadian Hockey League for a fourth straight week.

Halifax went 2-1 last week, with the lone setback being a 3-0 shutout at the

hands of the host Moncton Wildcats on Nov. 25.

The Mooseheads (21-3-0-1) also posted home victories over the Baie-Comeau Drakkar and Cape Breton Screaming Eagles.

The top-3 positions remain unchanged from last week, with the Kamloops Blazers (26-6-1-1) still at No. 2 followed by the Portland Winterhawks (20-4-1).

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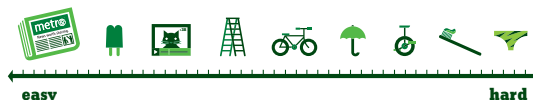
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NHL. Bettman proposes new plan as mediation fails

After arriving at another dead end in negotiations, the NHL and NHL Players' Association emerged from two days of mediation with a new direction to consider.

Commissioner Gary Bettman proposed Thursday that the leadership from both sides step aside for the next bargaining session, leaving a group of owners and players to try and break the stalemate. The specific parameters of the meeting weren't set out and the NHLPA said it would take the offer to its executive board and negotiating committee for consideration.

Bettman's proposal came with the sides unable to bridge a gap in collective bargaining negotiations despite sitting through a series of sessions

Quoted

"We are disappointed that the mediation process was not successful."

NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly

with U.S. federal mediators Scot L. Beckenbaugh and John Sweeney in Woodbridge, N.J., this week.

"After spending several hours with both sides over two days, the presiding mediators concluded that the parties remained far apart, and that no progress toward a resolution could be made through further mediation at this point in time," deputy commissioner Bill Daly said Thursday in a statement.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Coyotes captain Shane Doan sent out word that there would be a mini-camp this week, luring players to Scottsdale, Ariz. About 30 players showed up to work out and play in scrimmages simulating game speed. CHRISTIAN PETERSEN/GETTY IMAGES FILE

NHL. Wild goalie Harding diagnosed with MS

Minnesota Wild goalie Josh Harding has been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

The Wild confirmed Thursday that Harding is undergoing treatment for the disease, which attacks the body's immune system and affects the central nervous system.

The 28-year-old Harding told the Minneapolis Star Tribune he plans to keep playing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Josh Harding

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

FIFA awards

Sinclair snubbed for soccer award

John Herdman says it's a "travesty" that Canada's soccer captain Christine Sinclair has been snubbed for FIFA's women's player of the year award.

But the coach of the Canadian team that captured bronze at the London Olympics said a lack of knowledge about the women's game is more to

blame than any malicious intent. Besides, the coach added, international recognition isn't what his star striker plays for.

"It's a travesty," Herdman said from Vancouver. "A player who can score a hat trick in a semifinal and lead her country to the first (Olympic team) medal since 1936, the first time Canada's ever been on a (soccer) podium at one of these events, and still be one of the leading scorers in the world ... and she can't get in the top three."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Arizona an oasis for locked-out NHLers

Looking for action.

Players from across North America descend on star-studded scrimmages in desert

Quoted

"It just picks up the competitiveness and everyone wants to prove that they're capable of playing and it's a lot of fun."

Phoenix Coyotes captain Shane Doan

Phoenix Coyotes goalie Mike Smith lowered into a crouch as the odd-man rush developed in front of him.

The puck went to the left wing and he followed, lodging his skate against the post. A touch pass sent the puck across the front of Smith's crease and he slid over in a flash, whipping his right pad out for a sprawling save, setting off a collective "Oh!" from fans lining the glass behind him.

NHL players on the ice,

competing hard, fans cheering them on — it almost felt like a real game.

Of course, it was only a scrimmage in front of a couple hundred people at the Coyotes' practice facility, but as the NHL lockout drags on, fans — and the players — will take anything they can get.

"This is awesome," said Jane Pittet of Scottsdale, Ariz., who left work to catch Thursday's workout at the Ice Den. "I wish it were the real thing, but this is fun to

watch."

The Phoenix Coyotes have been holding informal workouts at their practice rink since the lockout started and this week were joined by more than a dozen players from around the league.

Pittsburgh star Sidney Crosby, San Jose forward Patrick Marleau, Buffalo goalie Ryan Miller and Dallas forward Brendan Morrow all made the trip to the desert to skate with the Coyotes.

It was a chance to step up in competition and play against someone other than their teammates.

"It was fun to be out there and, OK, I've actually got to stop this puck," Miller said. "I kind of tried to pretend I was back in front of the home crowd and had to make a stop, so it was good."

The Coyotes have had good turnouts for their player-organized workouts, skating with a dozen or so players who haven't gone to play overseas or in the AHL, while a handful of players from other teams have occasionally joined in.

Crosby helped organize a couple of gatherings in Dallas and Vail, Colo., and the group headed to Arizona this week to join the Coyotes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Rousey gets busy on her mattress before squaring off on MMA mat

Pre-fight ritual. First woman signed to UFC says she wants lots of sex before a fight

"Rowdy" Ronda Rousey, the first woman signed to the UFC, says sex — and plenty of it — is on her things-to-do list before she fights.

"For girls, it raises your testosterone so I try to have as much sex as possible before I fight actually," Rousey said on the Jim Rome on Showtime show Wednesday

night.

"Not with like everybody," she added with a laugh. "I don't put out Craigslist ads or anything." The mixed martial arts star was responding to a question about how some boxers abstain from sex before fights.

The 25-year-old American, an Olympic bronze medalist in judo, is 6-0 in MMA with every fight ending in the first round via an armbar submission.

She won the Strikeforce 135-pound title but recently signed with the UFC and will

Quoted

"If I've got a steady I'm going to be like 'Yo, fight time's coming up.'"

Ronda Rousey, who says she tries to have as much sex as possible leading up to a fight

help introduce a women's division to the promotion.

The sex query was part of a 10-question format on the show. One of the other questions was "Ever been in a fight with a guy?"

"Yes. I got in a fight with a couple of guys at the end

of 2007 in a movie theatre," said Rousey. "It was four couples, so four guys and one girl tried to get into it. And I had two friends with me. But I was only really handling two guys by myself."

"They sued me for assault because it didn't really go too well for them. I guess if you lose a fight in Santa Monica the next option is to sue. Everyone in the theatre was cheering for me. I was thinking I might have a future in this. It was before the whole MMA thing."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



MMA fighter Ronda Rousey says plenty of sex is on her things-to-do list before she fights. KEVIN WINTER/GETTY IMAGES

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5712 Inglis Street, Halifax
6 Bdrm Home \$859,900
196 James Street, Halifax
3 Bdrm Home in Desirable Timberlea \$232,900 MLS® 40749715
38 Karen Cres, Porters Lake
3+1 Bdrm Split Entry \$185,900 MLS® 00498220
32 Katrina Cres., Halifax
3 Bdrm Home in Governor's Lake \$229,000
356 Keltic Drive, Lawrencetown
4 Bdrm Home with 20x28 Detached Heated Garage \$324,000
432 Lakecrest Drive, Middle Sackville
Maintained 3 Bdrm Carpet Free Split Entry \$289,500 MLS® 41094236

33 Leacock Court, Cole Harbour
3 Bdrm Townhouse \$129,900
8 Loganberry Lane, West Chezzetcook
3 Bdrm Century Home with Many Upgrades \$189,900
153 Lundy Drive, Dartmouth
4 Bedroom Executive Split in Great Area \$374,900 MLS® 41222506
87 Melody Drive, Halifax
Updated 2 Bdrm Home Near MSVU \$214,900 MLS® 00315812
891 Mineville Road, Mineville
Carpet Free with A/C & Heat Pump \$244,900
50 Mountain Avenue, Dartmouth
2 Bdrm Bungalow with 1 Bdrm Bsmt. Apt. \$183,500 MLS® 00190231
80 Nadia Drive, Dartmouth
End Unit-3 Bdrm Townhouse \$235,000
1 Northwood Road, Hammonds Plains
5 Bdrm Home on Large Level Lot \$224,900
45 Pinehill Drive, Lower Sackville
4 Bdrm with 1 Bdrm In Law Suite \$243,900 MLS® 00350371
24 Poplar Drive, Lantz
Home Sweet Home! 4 bdrm bungalow \$259,900 MLS® 45261104
50 Prestwick Close, Halifax
3 Bdrm 4 Bath Townhouse in Desirable Location \$284,000 MLS® 41036468

93 Rosewood Lane, Eastern Passage
3 Bdrm Semi \$164,900 MLS® 40346249
52 Salzburg Place, Halifax
4 bdrm Split Entry mins to Bayers Lake \$439,900 MLS® 41273194
3105 St. Margarets Bay Rd., Timberlea
4 Bdrm with In-Law Suite Potential \$364,900
20 Summit Heights Road, Dartmouth
5 Bdrm 1.5 Bath Bungalow \$259,900 MLS® 00226704
Lot 6 Tanglewood Drive, East Uniacke
Vacant Lot with Panoramic Lake Views \$39,000 MLS® 45144789
9 Taylor Drive, Windsor Junction
Capilano Estates 4 Bdrm Family Home \$384,900 MLS® 40704611
1073 Terence Bay Road, Terence Bay
3 Bdrm Home in the Heart of Terence Bay \$149,900 MLS® 00383901
Lot 6 Whitecap Ridge, Blackpoint
Vacant Lot with Panoramic Ocean Views \$77,500 MLS® 41075698
11 Williams Lake Road, Halifax
3 Bdrm, 2 Storey Home Close to all Amenities \$239,900
6108 Willow Street, Halifax
Updated & Renovated \$459,900 MLS® 00146266

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**43 Caledonia Road
Dartmouth
SOLD Oct. 2012**

SELLER SAVED \$7,538.25

**36 South Gate Drive
#503, Bedford
SOLD Oct. 2012**

SELLER SAVED \$3,317.75

**55 Haddad Drive,
Lower Sackville
SOLD Nov. 2012**

SELLER SAVED \$4,180.25

**7 Chinook Court,
Dartmouth
SOLD Nov. 2012**

SELLER SAVED \$4,722.47

**44 Jeep Crescent,
Eastern Passage
SOLD Nov. 2012**



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Events

From the Hearth
Holiday Craft Sale
Saturday, Dec. 1, 10am to 3pm
Oxford School Gymnasium, Halifax
\$1.00 admission
Knits, jams, jewellery, baked goods,
cards and more. Support local!

Community Events



SANTA BY THE SEA

Sat Dec 1st • 10am - 5pm • **Shining Waters Marine**
Gift Bags for the first 100 guests!
Pictures with SANTA CLAUS, Dora, Elmo,
Mickey & Minnie Mouse!
30+ vendors with unique Holiday products
Free to attend & Door Prize Give Aways!
**Grand Prize Includes: *Overnight stay in Saint John*,
4 Hockey Tickets - Saint John vs. Halifax. *Meet & Greet
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www.facebook.com/SantaByTheSea**

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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

Life is good and getting better by the moment but for some strange reason you seem to be fearing the worst at the moment. Don't worry, whatever disaster you think is lurking round the next corner will fail to materialize.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

Steer clear of disputes and disagreements that have nothing directly to do with you. If you allow yourself to be dragged in by one side or the other, you may never get out again — and you'll lose friends on both sides.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

You have worked hard to get to your present position in life, so don't feel guilty just because not everyone hasn't been as fortunate as you. Lady Luck smiles most on those who deserve it — and you do.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

An opportunity to get on in the world will arrive out of the blue today or over the weekend. It could mean a promotion but it could also mean that you pack a bag and travel to some exotic land.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

You have accomplished a lot this year but you know you are capable of more, so step up a gear and let the world know what a special individual you are. The planets will do something to give you a push today.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

You need to get over the idea that everyone sees the world the same way as you. If nothing else, it puts you at a disadvantage by making it hard for you to take on board other people's insights and discoveries.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

You must find time in your busy schedule to let partners and loved ones know how much you care for them. On the home front, especially, you seem to have been a bit distant of late. Do some fun things together today.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Don't worry if certain people seem less than enthusiastic about your plans because most likely they are jealous and want to see you fail. You won't, of course. You'll succeed brilliantly and won't let them forget it.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

If you do small favours for other people now, they will do big favours for you later on. So, make an effort and make friends with those you interact with both personally and professionally. You may need their help soon.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

An opportunity to move up in the world will come your way today and you must grab it with both hands. It will certainly mean more work and more responsibility but since when have you been a stranger to those?

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

You need to make amends for something you did or something you said a while back. It may not have been your intention to be hurtful but the fact is you were and egos can be such fragile things.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

Make sure you get the respect you deserve from those you work with. Sometimes you can be a bit too easygoing for your own good but today you really must put your own needs first.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword

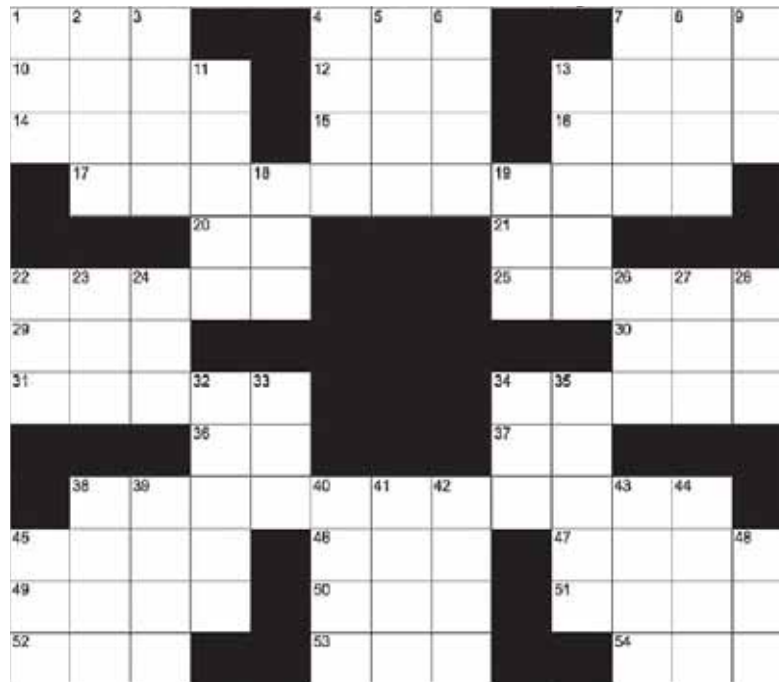
Across

- Request
- Wise old bird
- Alice spin-off
- Ogle
- Prior to
- "A Simple —"
- Courtroom bargain
- Plural suffix
- Flying (prefix)
- Novice workers
- "That is" Latin abbr.
- Gone with the Wind actress Olivia — Haviland
- Tons
- Emmy cousin
- Time Warner cable network (abbr.)
- Casual greeting
- Sour
- Frighten away
- He played "Dirty Harry" (init.)
- Ready — Not
- One who finishes hair (2 words)
- West Germany capital
- Yes, to Angus
- Only
- Eager
- Late night weekend skit show (init.)
- Predecessor of Johnny Carson
- Microsoft internet site (abbr.)
- Predatory fish
- Resort

Down

- Swiss mountain
- Actress Ward of Once and Again
- Save for oneself
- Sheriff Taylor's son
- Songbird
- We Forget
- On the lam
- Phyllis's never seen husband on Mary Tyler Moore
- Mrs. John Lennon
- Speedy
- Walks back and forth
- Telephone book listing (abbr.)
- Wedding vows
- Na Na
- Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (abbr.)
- Agency of Record (abbr.)

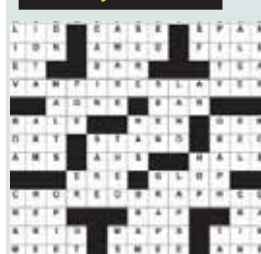
BY BETTY MARTIN



- Part of a Dancing with the Stars dance
- Lingus
- Deli bread
- Cake covering
- James Van — Beek of Don't Trust the B—in Apartment 23
- Sun God
- Curl
- Swine
- Soon

- Envelope abbr.
- Actress Daly of Judging Amy
- Scream
- Oceans
- Ensnare
- Emeril's favourite expression
- Time frame

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

8	9	1	3	2	8	4	5	7
4	3	6	7	5	9	8	2	1
5	2	7	4	8	1	9	3	6
7	4	8	6	1	3	2	9	5
3	1	2	5	9	4	6	7	8
6	5	9	8	7	2	3	1	4
2	6	5	9	4	7	1	8	3
9	7	3	1	6	8	5	4	2
1	8	4	2	3	5	7	6	9

	5		7		4			8
			9		5			
8		9				2		7
		4	5		7	1		
7								4
		2	1		9	8		
5		1				3		8
			8		6			
	6		3		1			9

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